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Alliegences

ThunderClan

Leader:

Duskstar- dark gray tom with orange eyes

Deputy:

Crowclaw- jet black tom with yellow eyes

Medicine Cat:

Ivyleaf- tortoiseshell she-cat with leaf colored eyes

Warriors:

Sedgeberry-light brown and golden she-cat with amber eyes

Ravenbreeze- black and white tom with gray eyes

Sootcloud- gray tom with green eyes

Starlingcall- black tom with a white muzzle and paws, and blue eyes

Swiftfoot- light brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Apprentice- **Foxpaw**

Fawndapple- light brown she-cat with white dapples and lime eyes

Fallowfern- brown she-cat with green eyes

Honeyflower- honey colored she-cat with yellow eyes

Mousepool- brown speckled she-cat with brown eyes

Mothflight- grey she-cat with stormy eyes

Quailfeather- brown tabby tom with sandy eyes

Apprentice- **Swanpaw**

Robinwing- brown tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes

Shrewleap- light tabby tom with blue eyes

Sparrowstrike- black tom with green eyes

Thrushstripe- dark tabby tom with golden eyes

Yewtail-golden tom with a white tipped tail and golden eyes

Wrentooth- tortoiseshell tom with ember eyes

Apprentice- **Mintpaw**

Applenose-russet she-cat with a pink nose and brown eyes

Morningleaf- golden she-cat with green eyes

Brindlesky-light brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Hornheart- dark tabby tom with green eyes

Lionflame- golden tom with orange eyes

Apprentices:

Mintpaw- light brown tabby she-cat with mint green eyes

Foxpaw- rusty colored tom with golden eyes

Swanpaw- pure white she-cat with green eyes

Queen:

Poppytail-long tailed tabby she-cat with green eyes ***Kits***:
Flowerkit- Black she-cat with fierce yellow eyes **Bumblekit**- golden and black tom with golden eyes

Elders:

Sedgetooth- golden tom with amber eyes

Hollyheart- tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes

ShadowClan

Leader:

Batstar- black tom

Deputy:

Blackfang-black and white tom

Medicine Cat:

Gingerleaf- ginger she-cat

Medicine Cat Apprentice:

Flamepaw- russet tom

Warriors:

Cypressgaze- dark brown tom

Nightwolf- black tom

Apprentice- **Rotpaw**

Ratfang- dark brown tom

Shadowflash- tabby she-cat

Jaywing- silver she-cat

Lizardtongue- dark gray tom

Reedpelt- orange tabby tom

Apprentice- **Weaselpaw**

Pearnose-blight brown she-cat

Rushflash- brown and black she-cat

Falcontalon- dark brown tom

Froststripe- white and silver tabby tom

Sorrelcloud- light brown she-cat

Apprentices:

Rotpaw- dark brown and black tom

Weaselpaw- light and dark brown tabby tom

Queens:

Snowspot- white and light grey she-cat

Nightwing- black and white she-cat

RiverClan

Leader:

Shellstar- white and gray tom

Deputy:

Duckfur- dark gray tom

Medicine Cat:

Elmcloud- tabby she-cat

Warriors:

Beechdream- sandy tom

Carpclaw- gray tom

Eelbite- sleek black tom

Hazelfern- hazel she-cat

Gooseflight- white and gray speckled she-cat

Frogjump- dark gray tom

Larchcall- white she-cat

Silverfrost- silver and white she-cat

Bluelight- blue gray she-cat

Fograin- misty gray tom

Stormpool- dark gray tom

Lichenpond- white and gray she-cat

Apprentices:

Pebblepaw- speckled tom

Egretpaw- white she-cat

Elders:

Ryesong- brown tabby she-cat

Plumspring- gray tabby she-cat

WindClan

Leader:

Sheepstar- long furred white she-cat

Deputy:

Eagletalon- bramble tom

Medicine Cat:

Fallowwhisker- white and gray tom

Warriors:

Horsefoot- brown she-cat

Dogstrike- dark brown tom

Kestrelwing- russet she-cat

Swiftwind- black and whey she-cat

Rabbitear- long eared sandy tom

Rushwish- gray she-cat

Jaguarfang- light brown tabby tom

Moleclaw- tabby tom

Cloudripple- white and gray she-cat

Flyfeather- white she-cat

Falconshade- black tom

Larchsky- gray and white she-cat

Apprentice:

Spiderpaw- black tom

Kestrelpaw- light brown she-cat

Queens:

Heathersight- light brown tabby she-cat

Sorrelfoot- brown and gray she-cat

Cats Outside the Clans:

Ivy- Silver and brown rogue with ivy green eyes, and a long tail, Mystery's sister. (She-cat)

Mystery- black and white dappled rogue tom, Ivy's brother.

Wolf- black and gray rogue tom.

Belle- light gray tabby kittypet she-cat, Darin's mate.

Darin- dark brown tom kittypet.

Prologue

On one side of the afterlife, the sky and air itself shimmered with starlight. Cats from all around glided from the treetops, coming from all directions. Stars shone in their fur, their pawsteps light as a feather.

Although the majestic cats had beauty in everything thy did, whether it was hunt, or simply pad through the starlit forests, an air of worry crowded them this night.

The cats gathered to discuss worriedly about one cats future, that had long since been written in the stars. One noble she-cat who's pelt was dim and slightly transparent, the trees seen through her pelt.

Her green eyes shined brightly, sweeping over the gathering cats.

She silenced their nervous murmurs with a wave of her tail. "Cats of StarClan, we know why we are gathered. This young kit could threaten not only all the clans, but StarClan as well." She paused to let her words soak in. "I see that you are worried for the future, it is not our place to interfere."

A russet tom stood, his fur shimmering with stars and his eyes blazing. "This cat could destroy us-"

He was cut off buy the she-cat, "This *kit,*" she corrected, "*Could* destroy us, that does not mean that it will."

The tom sat back down, his eyes still blazing unhappily. The she-cat hushed the crowd, lashing her tail in fury.

"All of you, this ends now, this conversation is over." The cats padded away looking half-satisfied.

On the other side of the afterlife a dark and ominous forest loomed. Shadows swirled and not a single star shone through the thick trees.

Ragged and scarred cats gathered, sliding over the marshy ground. Shadows swirled around their paws and clung to their fur.

A huge ragged tom stood on a log above them, scars covering his pelt. His voice was rough and his teeth pointed. "This is our chance to triumph over the clans, for the young kit can lead us through where we failed. With the perfect training we can turn this cat into an unstoppable killing weapon."

Cheers erupted from the cats below, and the ragged tom let then quiet down before continuing.

"Our only problem, is what cat is fit to train this death-bringer?" The tom asked.

One tortoiseshell she-cat stood with a snarling grin. "I will train the death-bringer." A tom faced her, his gray fur spiked up, "No I will train the cat!"

With a ferocious screech the she-cat launched herself at the other cat.

Just then a massive dark brown tom with a white circle around one eye, his fur ragged and his pelt scarred.

The massive cat moved surprisingly fast, he sent the she-cat sprawling. Then he had the tom flipped on his back, helplessly pinned to the ground while the she-cat was trapped under his hind legs.

The tom stepped off of them, standing tall above the other cats. "I will train the death-bringer." His voice was calm and controlled.

The tom who had called the meeting grinned darkly, "Ahh Shadeheart, you are the perfect cat for this, you are in charge of watching over the death-bringer."

Shadeheart dipped his head and the dark cats began to pad off, snickering over their own dark plans.

Shadeheart's fierce yellow eyes glinted with twisted joy, his face contorted in a smirk, "The clans will fall under the paws of this cat

and I, and once their disposed of, even StarClan will fall to the shadows."

Chapter 1

"Attack!" The tiny black she-cat yowled as she leaped, tackling her brother. The young striped tom laughed and they tumbles around the grassy clearing in a tangle of paws and tails.

The little tom reared up, "Rawr! I'll get you Flowerkit!" He squeaked. Sun glinted off his golden and black striped pelt as he crashed down toward his sister.

The black she-cat's yellow eyes glinted and she leaped up, crashing into her brothers stomach, "Oh no you don't Bumblekit!"

Her brother squeaked as Flowerkit rammed him to the ground. He whimpered, "Mama! She did it again!"

Poppytail picked Flowerkit up by the scruff besides her complaints, setting her down and looking sternly at her.

"You know not to play so rough with your brother." She said, her voice cold and her green eyes stern.

"It's not my fault he's to weak!" Flowerkit protested, frustratingly raking her tiny claws across the grass. Poppytail was about to snap out another stern order to the kit when her father interrupted.

"It's alright Poppytail, she's only a kit she didn't do any real harm did you Flowerkit?" The muscular sleek-pelted black tom asked. Flowerkit shook her head, stretching her yellow eyes wide, "Of course not! Bumblekit just overreacted a bit." Flowerkit pointed out to her father. Poppytail grumbled, "I'll speak with you later Sparrowstrike." Then the she-cat returned to licking Bumblekit. Sparrowstrike grinned playfully and bowled Flowerkit over, lumbering around the sunny clearing like a fox in a fit.

Flowerkit squealed in joy and leaped onto him, pulling on his ear and clinging to his pelt like a burr with tiny thorn sharp claws.

A few of the other warriors watched, twitching their whiskers in amusement as the father and daughter bounded around in the shade of the trees.

Sparrowstrike rolled onto his back, flailing his paws as Flowerkit leaped onto his belly.

She gave a strong swipe to his nose, catching him by surprise. He stood back up, wiggling his nose, "Wow quite a little warrior already aren't you."

He was surprised at this tiny three moon old kit, who managed to throw a strong blow to a full grown warrior.

Flowerkit's mother saw a flash of dark satisfaction flicker across the kits face. She recoiled slightly at this look she would see on a full grown traitorous cat, she never expected to see it on that of a kit, especially her own.

She shook her head to ignore it, and continued washing Bumblekit as Sparrowstrike played with Flowerkit in the ThunderClan clearing.

(There's chapter one everybody :D I hope you liked it, let me hear what you guys think so far and feel welcome to tell anybody you know about this book ;D well anyway, thanks for reading Chapter 1!)

Chapter 2

A large dark gray tom looked at the two cats with amusement in his gaze, "Care to join my border patrol Sparrowstrike?"

The black warrior leaped to his paws, embarrassment flashing in his eyes, "Sure thing Duskstar." The ThunderClan flicked his tail for his cats to follow him as he led them out of camp.

Flowerkit called after her father, "Can I come? Pleeeease?" Her fathers eyes looked sympathetic, "One day Flowerkit, one day."

She frowned as he pelted off with the other warriors. *If you won't take me, I'll go myself!* Flowerkit decided stubbornly.

She creeped through the shade, careful to avoid the gazes of all cats as she slipped out from the dirt-place tunnel.

She gazed wide-eyed at the huge green trees around her.

Flowerkit padded up a slope, making sure to stay hidden in the undergrowth. She froze as a shaggy golden pelt stopped beside the bush.

Lionflame's scent hit the roof of her mouth just as the warrior said, "I scent her here but the trail ends."

Why cant he smell me? Flowerkit wondered, then realized she was up to her belly fur in wild garlic, which must have masked her scent.

She didn't move as the warriors breath stirred the fur on the tips of her ears, "Lets keep looking."

She let out the breath she didn't know she had been holding as the warriors paraded away.

Flowerkit unsheathed her claws and hauled herself up the slope looking in awe at the world around her.

She backed through bushes, looking up at the sky when she bumped into something.

She whipped around to see a huge dark gray cat. He snarled at her, "Watch it kit!"

Flowerkit puffed her chest out even though fear made her fur stand on end. "Your in ThunderClan land." She stated.

The huge cat smirked, "Who's gonna stop me kit, you?" He laughed, "I would love to see you try."

He turned his back on her and she growled, "Coward." The tom stiffened and turned around in a threatening stance. "I'm no coward, in fact I'm hungry and I think I just found my next meal!"

Flowerkit yelped and leaped to the side as he crashed down where she had been seconds before.

Her heart thudded in her chest, *I'm only three moons old I cant defeat a full grown wildcat!*

That's when she saw a huge faded tom, with ragged dark fur. A white circle was around his right eye, both of the fierce yellow eyes were fixed on Flowerkit.

A voice sounded in her head, *don't be afraid death-bringer you can do this just focus on you opponent.*

The cats eyes glinted a challenge to her as if saying, *I think you can do this, show me if you can.*

Flowerkit faced the huge tom, focusing on him with intense yellow eyes. The tom smirked at her "What? You gonna actually try I fight me?"

Her fear melted away instantly and a strange unbidden passion rose up in her, tingling through her body from her ears to her tail.

The toms eyes widened at the look on the kits eyes, it looked like that of a bloodthirsty killer, not a look he would expect to see on a cat, especially a kit.

He snarled at her and yowled, thundering toward her.

Instantly Flowerkit calculated how long she had until he reached her, she knew what he was going to do.

She ducked and rolled forward, the surprised cat landed where the kit had been standing, and his fangs snapped air instead of pelt.

Flowerkit was on her paws instantly, calculating everything she needed to know. *There! His hind leg is a weak spot!*

Flowerkit rushed forward and bit his hind leg as hard as her small jaws could. The tom shrieked in pain, "Mroww ow! Not my snake bite!" He kicked her off and backed away from the kit. He lunged for her again and Flowerkit tried to five away but her paws slipped on leaves and the cat scooped her into the air with a huge paw, pinning her to the ground.

Flowerkit squirmed under his paw, unable to get out. She shrieked as teeth sank into her shoulder, pain bolting through her.

An angry yowl sounded somewhere off to the side, and Sparrowstrike leaped onto the rogue. The rest of the patrol followed Duskstar down the slope, charging toward the rogue.

The tom took one wide-eyes look and ran as fast as his paws could carry him. Sparrowstrike was at Flowerkit's side instantly, "Duskstar! We need to get her back to camp, the wound is deep!"

Her fathers face loomed over hers as Flowerkit fell unconscious.

(Hey guys thanks for reading this chapter! I hope you guys enjoyed it :D tell me what you thought, and can any of you guess which rogue that was from the Cats Outside the Clans section? Comment how you liked the chapter and the answer to the question if you want :D thanks)

Chapter 3

Flowerkit opened her eyes, blinking sleep from her eyes. *Where am I?* The black she-cat wondered, aware of her surroundings.

A ominous dark forest loomed over her, thick branches blocking out any chance of light.

The ground was peaty underpaw, and Flowerkit felt no pain as she stood, surprising herself a bit.

Flowerkit's curiosity pulled her deeper jnto the foggy forest. The air smelled of crow-food like the mouse she and Bumblekit had found. She opened her mouth and another metallic scent hit the roof of her mouth.

It didn't take long for her to recognize the smell of blood, it clung to the air around her. "Hello!?" Flowerkit called, surprisingly not afraid.

A massive ragged tom padded from the shadows, his pelt littered with scars like grass bits that clung to his fur. Fierce yellow eyes glowed and a white circle was around one, suddenly she remembered where she had seen this tom.

"You were there when I fought, who are you?" Flowerkit narrowed her eyes suspiciously at the giant cat. He grinned, pointed teeth glinting, "My name is Shadeheart, I am a friend, and your soon to be mentor death-bringer."

Flowerkit was puzzled at this strange word, death-bringer. She looked the cat up and down, his calm cool gaze fixed on her, he seemed to be judging her as well.

Flowerkit noticed things she had never noticed in cats before, things she had never looked for. His eyes glinted with curiosity, "When you fought that tom you bit his leg, which ended up being a sensitive spot, I do nnot believe that was a lucky strike."

Flowerkit decided she could trust this cat, if he wanted her dead she would be dead already. "I can't explain it, but I could tell where his weak point was, the way he moved and leaped showed there was a weak point on his leg, and I pinpointed where his weak point was."

He nodded interested, "Do you know where my weak points are?"

Flowerkit's mind worked quickly, calculating the massive cat. "In the middle of your tail there's a slightly crooked bone that would be painful for me to bite, the scar on your shoulder is sensitive if I were to scratch you there, and your right ear was recently wounded and would be painful for me to claw."

The toms eyes widened in surprise, "Very promising death-bringer, you will be better then I imagined, but for now rest I will speak with you again later."

To Flowerkit's dismay the ominous forest, and giant cat faded away despite her yowls. Then Flowerkit sank back into a deep restful sleep.

(Sorry this chapter took sooooo long, a lots been happening is all, but I hope you enjoy it and I'll have the next one out as soon as I can, thanks :D)

Chapter 4

Flowerkit blinked open her yellow eyes, her mind quickly working to analyze her surroundings. *It's the medicine cat den!* She realized, the sharp tang of herbs bathing her tongue.

She took in the gray stone around her, craning her neck forward to lap from a tiny pool of water that seeped and bubbled between the rocks.

The water was crisp and cool on her tongue, refreshing her small body. She tried to stand but pain immediately fired through her, making her yelp.

"Easy young one, your paw will hurt for a while yet." A gentle voice sounded from somewhere behind her. Flowerkit looked at her paw, her jaw gaping at the sight of it, her paw looked mangled and broken, not to mention that it was twisted to where the front of her paw facing sideways toward her other paw.

Flowerkit stared at it, until Ivyleaf gently moved her head up with her tail, the medicine cats green eyes searched Flowerkit's yellow ones, "Do not worry yourself over your leg, focus on getting your strength up."

I cant believe it! How can I ever be a warrior if my leg is like this! Flowerkit wanted to wail but kept her jaws snapped shut.

She squeezed her eyes shut, wishing her paw would be normal when she re-opened them.

No worries death-bringer.... She recognized Shadeheart's calm voice at once, *this injury may slow down our work, but it will only fool your enemies into misjudging you.*

Flowerkit re-opened her eyes with newfound determination. She was determined to get better soon, but the day was dragging by slowly.

That is, until her brother bounded into the den. His round eyes were brimmed with worry as he sniffed her gently. "Are you ok sis?" He squeaked. Flowerkit nodded, "Of course I'm fine, it takes much more then a petty injury to bring me down!" She smiled.

Poppytail's scent drifted in as the two kits mother padded into the medicine den.

Poppytail drew Bumblekit away with her tail, refusing to look and Flowerkit. "Flowerkit needs rest, let's go Bumblekit." Flowerkit tried to meet her mothers eyes and pleaded for her to let him stay, but she used her tail to push Bumblekit our of the medicine den with her.

Sparrowstrike padded past his mate, narrowing his eyes at her, but she lifted her nose and ignored him. Her father padded in with a warm smile, "Seems boring here huh?"

Flowerkit let out an exaggerated sigh, "Tell me about it." Her father laughed and batted her nose gently, Flowerkit smiled and giggled as her dad gently boxed her ear affectionately.

"Don't worry about your mother," Flowerkit's eyes flashed angrily, but her father payed no notice as he went on, "She's grieving in her own way, it'll be back to normal soon Flowerkit."

She purred to mask her anger, "Your right dad, but you should go do a patrol or something." She lifted her good paw to bat at his nose, causing him to sneeze.

He laughed, "I suppose I should, I'll check on you before bed and bring you a mouse ok?"

Flowerkit smiled and nodded, watching her father pad away. *Don't worry about your mother, eventually all cats learn not to mess with you, given time she will know*. Shadeheart's voice echoed in her ears.Flowerkit huffed, agreeing with him as she lay her head down to rest once more.

(Sooooo sorry everyone SO MUCH exciting things are happening and I ran out of time to work on this chapter, but here it is

nonetheless :D enjoy and thanks for reading! <3 Jade)

Chapter 5

Flowerkit felt a wave of disappointment rush through her as she woke up in the medicine den without dreaming.

Two whole moons of no dreams and being stuck in the stinky medicine den. Flowerkit thought bitterly, ready as ever to leave the den.

Ivyleaf padded into the den, dropping a plumb newleaf squirrel at her paws. Flowerkit stood, padding forward carefully with a slight limp from her leg, but no pain other then a small ache.

She bent her head down to take a bite of the fresh-kill, its warm scent making her mouth water. She devoured the squirrel in many large chomps.

She licked her lips happily, contented with her meal. Ivyleaf padded over, her scent mixed with the sharpness of herbs.

"Hey Flowerkit guess what time it is?" She asked, whiskers twitching with amusement. Flowerkit groaned, "Not again, why do I have to do my stretches every day?"

Ivyleaf laughed softly, "Because." She meowed in response. Flowerkit looked at her skeptically, "Because?"

Ivyleaf rolled her eyes, "Because it will help your leg get better miss bossy fur." Flowerkit stuck her tongue out with a giggle, "I'm not I can *that* bossy"

Ivyleaf rolled her eyes, "Do your stretches, if you do good I'll tell you a secret."

Flowerkit got excited at the thought of knowing a secret, so she did her stretches. She stretched her leg forward until it hurt a bit, then twisted it to the sides.

Finally she stood and leaned on her bad leg, surprised at the lack of pain she got from it. Ivyleaf nodded, "Alright that promising

performance is worthy of my secret."

Flowerkit bounced over, tripping and rolling across part of the den before standing and padding in front of the medicine cat, shaking bits of leaf from her pelt.

Ivyleaf laughed, "I think that you are finally ready to move back to the nursery today."

Flowerkit almost leaped with joy, she hadn't gone out of the medicine clearing since she was hurt! Ivyleaf smiled, flicking her ears with her tail, "We what're you doing loitering here, go on and say hi to everyone!" Flowerkit dipped her head politely and padded toward the exit for the Medicine Clearing. She limped over, pausing at the edge with a deep breath before padding into the grassy clearing.

Sootcloud looked up from the mouse he was eating and called, "Hey Flowerkit its great to see you up and running!"

Ravenbreeze gracefully bounded over, "Its so good to see you healthy like this Flowerkit!" Other cats heard the news and gathered around to greet her. Flowerkit noticed that her mother hung back, her eyes narrowed, not showing emotion.

The cats cleared off as Duskstar padded through them, "Don't overcrowd her now, give her some space now all of you." He smiled and dipped his head as the cats cleared off a bit.

Flowerkit padded over to her mother, holding her head high and meeting her eyes. Her mother blinked slowly before looking away, she padded into the nursery, leaving Flowerkit.

The she-kit frowned and her tail trailed on the ground. Bumblekit bounded over to her with a cheerful smile, "Flowerkit!"

She touched noses with her brother before playfully batting his ear with her good paw. "Can you believe it, we are going to be apprentices tomorrow!" He exclaimed.

"Your right I totally forgot!" Flowerkit felt a spark of excitement course through her.

"Well then you two had better get some sleep you two!" Sparrowstrike interrupted the two kits conversation. Bumblekit nodded, "Yes father." Flowerkit dipped her head and led the way into the warmth of the nursery.

Poppytail looked up as they entered, "Oh hello Flowerkit, because you have had your own nest this whole time I made you your own nest in the corner."

Flowerkit felt her heart ache and hurt flashed in her eyes. Bumblekit looked at her guiltily from his place in the nest with Poppytail.

Flowerkit snarled and whipped around, limping out if the den as fast as she could. She shut her yellow eyes as she stalked off, yelping in surprise when she ran into Duskstar.

The leader looked at her with concern in his gaze, "What's wrong Flowerkit?" She frowned and muttered, "Bumblekit gets to sleep with mom, but I get my own nest."

He sat down and sweeper his tail around her, "She is grieving for your injury, she's doing what she believes is right, go and get some sleep for the big day tomorrow, you'll need the rest."

Flowerkit nodded, and she felt a spark of happiness as a familiar voice, *a death-bringer such as yourself should have a more... Suiting name don't you think my dear?* Flowerkit grinned inwardly, "Duskstar, I want to change my name if that would be possible."

The leader looked down at her in surprise, "Of course, what name would you like?"

Flowerkit told him what name she wanted, then politely said goodnight to her leader, and padded to the nursery, curling up in her own empty nest to sleep.

(I'm sooooo sorry that took so long guys, hope you enjoy the chapter! <3 Jade)

Chapter 6

Flowerkit woke up from another dreamless night with not to much surprise. She shook moss from her fur and narrowed her eyes through the dim light of the nursery, Bumblekit stretched and prodded Poppytail awake excitedly, "Mom wake up our ceremony is happening any moment now!"

Poppytail huffed and sat up, "Then its time for your wash." Bumblekit made an effort to escape but his mother grabbed him and groomed his striped pelt.

Flowerkit sighed sadly and groomed her own pelt until her sleek black fur shined. She ignored her mom and squeezed through the nursery exit, blinking at the sudden burst of sunshine.

She narrowed her eyes in the glint and sank back into the shade. Warriors padded around the clearing, the deputy was barking orders and sending off patrols.

Duskstar bunched his muscles and leaped up onto the Highledge, lifting his head to call out, "Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather here beneath the Highledge for a Clan meeting!"

Again excitement plunged through her and Flowerkit bounded over to gather with the other cats. Sedgeberry, followed by Starlingcall and Sparrowstrike, who settled next to Flowerkit, touching his nose to her ear.

Flowerkit exchanged a glance with her brother. "Bumblekit please step forward, the striped kit stood tall and stepped forward." Duskstar's voice echoed through the clearing, "Do you promise to work hard to learn out ways, and to listen to and learn from your mentor?"

Bumblekit puffed out his small chest and said, "I promise." Duskstar dipped his head, "Then from this moment on until you earn your warrior name, you shall be known as Bumblepaw."

Duskstar swooped his gaze over to a tortoiseshell tom with deep ember eyes, "Wrentooth you are ready to take on another apprentice, I know you will pass on your courage and loyalty to this young apprentice."

Wrentooth dipped his head and padded over to Bumblepaw, the two touched noses respectfully and padded over to sit by the other apprentices and their mentors.

Duskstar turned his gaze to Flowerkit, "Flowerkit do you promise to uphold the Warrior Code and to listen to and learn from your mentor?"

Flowerkit nodded, "I do." Duskstar's eyes glinted to let her know that he had not forgotten their agreement. "Then from this moment on, until you earn your warrior name, you shall be known from a different apprentice name then your original kitname, Flowerkit shall now be known as Shadowpaw."

A ripple of surprise passed through the cats, and out of the corner of her eye Shadowpaw saw her mothers eyes darken for a second. "I will be your mentor, and I will do my best to pass on all I know to this young cat."

He leaped down and touched noses with her, "Clan dismissed." He called to the cats, who separated off to talk in clusters.

Bumblepaw bounded over, "Shadowpaw huh? I like the sound of that!" He smiled cheerfully and batted at her. Shadowpaw laughed and thought, *I promise that I will be the greatest warrior the clans have ever seen!*

(Yay there's another chapter! And it didn't take days to come out XD, hope you guys enjoy it, and do you like the new name? Let me know in the comments below, baiii <3 Jade)

Chapter 7

Shadowpaw dipped her head in farewell as her brother padded out of camp with his mentor. She scented Duskstar before she turned around, excitement burning through her.

"Ready to see the territory too Shadowpaw?" He meowed in a deep voice, pausing to give his chest fur a few swift licks. Shadowpaw nodded and followed her mentor, limping from her leg.

Shadowpaw padded into the forest, remembering the slope from before when she was a kit. "I want to see how well you can keep up with that leg, so I'll lead the way to one of the borders and you try your best to keep up."

Shadowpaw nodded, determination in her gaze. Duskstar dashed off at a run, although not going full speed. Shadowpaw took a deep breath and charged after him, her paw proved difficult while leaping over a large gray stone.

The grass was cool under her paws, and sunlight flickered through the branches and onto the forest floor. She was able to keep up with her mentor, but couldn't run fast enough for long.

He slowed down and she caught up panting, dipping her head in thanks. As they padded on the trickle of a rushing stream caught Shadowpaw's ears.

Shadowpaw perked up her ears, trotting to go ahead of her mentor to peak out at the river.

Water rushed over pebbles and streams, gently churning continuously. Shadowpaw wrinkled up her nose at the strong scent of fish mixed with the river and forest smell. "Yuck!" She spat, looking at Duskstar, who's whiskers twitched in amusement.

"This is the RiverClan border." He meowed, his eyes scanning the river bank. "The WindClan border is this way across the gathering

area."

He padded along the RiverClan border, Shadowpaw bouncing after him, the stones smooth under her paws. The ThunderClan leader cleared large rocks with a great leap, and Shadowpaw scrambled up after him. She slipped and rolled off the stone, quickly leaping to her paws and crossly shaking some moss and dirt from her black pelt.

Shadowpaw quickened her stride to catch up to her mentor, not long after they continued walking did they reach a open area, with a massive rock toward the back.

The stone gleamed a pale gray in the sunlight, and the giant clearing had stale mixed scents of many cats. A cool breeze stirred over the clearing, wafting the strong scent of heather to Shadowpaw's nose.

She memorized the scent as the two cats padded on, pausing for a brief greeting when they passed her brother and his mentor. Shadowpaw limped on, catching the rank smell of ShadowClan.

The trees grew closer together as they reached the border and Shadowpaw saw the forest turn to dark pines, casting long dark shadows.

"This is the ShadowClan border if you cant tell by their stench." Duskstar said, his eyes narrowing.

Shadowpaw detected the hate in his meow, "What did ShadowClan do that made you hate them so much, other then them being ShadowClan?"

Duskstar looked surprised by her question, and his eyes darkened sadly as he continued walking. After a long pause he began, "My mother and sister were hunting mice along the ferns by the border, they were ambushed and murdered by a ShadowClan patrol." Shadowpaw felt a pang of sorrow for her mentor, she touched her tail tip to his shoulder, "I cant imagine how hard that must have been."

He cast her a grateful look, then perked up his ears as a thundering sound echoed through the trees ahead. Shadowpaw flattened her ears, "What's that!?" Duskstar's whiskers twitched as the trees opened up to a smooth black path. "This is the Thunderpath, it separates our land from the twolegplace."

Rows of strange stone dens lay across the thunderpath. Shadowpaw's heart raced as a massive creature roared past them at a surprising speed, sending a blast of wind through the two cats' pelts.

Duskstar raised his voice to be heard over the sound of the monsters, "Lets return to camp, your paws must be sore after a long day."

Shadowpaw nodded, glad to be returning to camp, for her paws were sore. Shadowpaw was relieved when the camp was seen ahead of them, and she quickened her pace to bound through the bramble tunnel.

The familiar space of camp welcomed her as she padded into the bright clearing, exhausted. Sparrowstrike trotted over from the warriors side of the clearing, his eyes sparking with pride.

The orange color of the setting sun glinting off his black pelt. "How was your first day Shadowpaw?" He asked, licking the top of her head.

"It was tiring but fun, getting to see all of the borders!" Shadowpaw replied excitedly. Her father laughed, "You should get something to eat then get some sleep, tomorrow will be another long day."

Shadowpaw nodded and meowed her goodbye, bounding off to pick a mouse from the fresh-kill pile. Shadowpaw found Bumblepaw eating with Swanpaw and padded over to join them.

"Hey Shadowpaw!" Swanpaw greeted her, "I was just telling Bumblepaw about the time I fought a fox with another patrol."

Shadowpaw settled down to listen to the story while eating her mouse. The three cats chatted until darkness creeped into the

clearing, Shadowpaw decided inwardly that she liked the fiesty white she-cat. She yawned, "I'm gonna get some sleep." Bumblepaw nodded in agreement, padding after Swanpaw and Shadowpaw.

Shadowpaw ducked under the leafy bush into the den. Shadowpaw found an empty nest next to her brother and settled down into the soft moss.

She closed her eyes with a sigh, feeling sleep come like a cloud moving through the sky and she spiraled into darkness.

(Sorry this took so long! I hope you guys enjoyed this chapter and I'll get the next out as soon as possible! <3 Jade)

Chapter 8

Shadowpaw blinked open her yellow eyes, and leaped to her paws in excitement. A dark forest was all around her, and she looked around. "Welcome Shadowpaw to the Dark Forest, I will be your mentor here." Shadeheart padded from the shadows as he spoke.*Wow two mentors!* Shadowpaw thought.

"Today we will work on your speed, your twisted leg gets in your way, you must change that." Shadowpaw nodded determinedly.

"Run after me, you don't want to get left alone here, not yet." He turned and darted off, not giving her a moment to spare.

Shadowpaw pelted after him, her paw making her slow. "Use your paw to your advantage!" He called back. Shadowpaw thought fast, using her twisted paw to propel herself forward instead of trying not to use it.

She felt wind in her fur as she picked up speed, pinning her ears and twining between trees. The bulky shape of Shadeheart appeared in front of her, and she picked up speed, watching trees zip by her.

Shadowpaw passed the tom, spinning around in front of him as he skidded to a stop. He grinned, "I knew you would be a fast learner."

"Try to attack me, claws sheathed for now, try using swifter attacks instead of heavy blows." He meowed, crouching down and narrowing his eyes.

Shadowpaw crouched and lunged forward quickly, aiming swift blows for his ears. The tom disappeared as she struck and she looked around confused.

A cat barreled into her from behind and his voice growled, "Try again, faster this time, accuracy is important."

Shadowpaw stood and without hesitation she aimed a lightning fat

strike at his muzzle, feeling satisfaction as her paws hit their mark.

"Try to keep moving." Shadeheart adviced, ducking one of her blows, "I'm going to start attacking back." Shadowpaw danced around him, delivering quick sheathed-clawed blows at the giant tom.

Shadeheart turned and lunged for her, but she leaped high, kicking off his back and turning midair to face him.

Shadowpaw reared up, slashing at him.

Shadeheart reared up too, and she grinned, stabbing paws into his stomach quickly before turning and taking her weight on her front paws and kicking out with her hind legs.

Shadeheart grunted and large paws jabbed at her ribs. Shadowpaw winced and darted around the tom, teasing him with quick strikes.

Shadeheart and Shadowpaw agreed to take a break, both of them panting. "Great job, if you continue showing who's much promise you'll be ready to kill any cat in your way."

Shadowpaw recoiled, "Kill? I didn't know I would have to kill cats, that doesn't seem right."

Shadeheart narrowed his eyes and opened his jaws to speak but anther cat interrupted him. "You are right young Shadowpaw."

She whipped around to see a starry she-cat with pretty white fur and soft brown eyes, "I am Frostflower."

Shadeheart growled and spat, "You shouldn't be here StarClan cat." The she cat ignored him, "Come with me Shadowpaw, I'll take you away from this place of darkness."

Shadowpaw was unsure, she didn't want to kill but she liked Shadeheart. Then another cat padded out from behind Frostflower, the cats sleek black pelt had no stars or shadows in it-he was living. The cats surprised eyes met Shadowpaw's and her heart skipped a beat when she recognized her father.

"Shadowpaw, it's not to late to leave this dark place." Her father meowed. Shadowpaw turned to Shadeheart, "I'm sorry but I just cant kill, I'm going with my father and Frostflower."

Before he could reply Shadowpaw turned and bounded over to her father, nuzzling him, "I'll always be on your side father."

Her father purred, "close your eyes and sleep my kit." Shadowpaw nodded and closed her eyes, feeling sleep wash over her once more.

(Haha success I told you I would get this chapter out soon! Well hope you enjoyed it, comment what you think will happen next! <3 Jade)

Chapter 9

Shadowpaw woke to sunlight shining through the leaves. Bumblepaw was already stretching as Shadowpaw gave her chest fur a few quick licks.

With a yawn Shadowpaw heaved herself to her paws and trotted into the clearing, a quick glance from her after told her that her dream had been true.

Taking a freshly killed thrush from the pile she devoured it in a few giant chomps.

Duskstar padded over, "Ready for more training Shadowpaw?" The she-cat gave her muzzle a swift lick and nodded. Duskstar laughed and led the way out of camp, "See if you can keep up with me again okay?"

Shadowpaw grinned and nodded, letting her leader dash away into the trees. Shadowpaw hated after him, propelling herself forward until she caught up with her mentor, even passing him as she took in deep breaths.

Duskstar looked surprised and almost tripped as she passed him. "We can stop here." He meowed keeping his voice low. His eyes were fixed on a starling as it searched for bugs under the leaves.

"Keep your tail still and stay low to the ground, see if you can catch it." Duskstar whispered, watching his apprentice intently.

Shadowpaw crouched and slid forward silently, her tail aching to twitch although she forced it to stay still. She darted forward and slammed a paw on its back, the bird let out a loud alarm call before she could break its neck.

Duskstar nodded, "Not bad, but it's probably chased off all the prey, so how about we work on basic fighting."

Duskstar lead her to a grassy clearing, "Show me what you can do." He meowed. Shadowpaw crouched and leaped forward, swiping a clump of mods into the air, twisting and leaping again to slam it to the ground. She darted back and slashed at the moss, darting circles around it.

Duskstar looked surprised, "Not bad at all." Shadowpaw smiled at the complement and dipped her head. Duskstar was about to say more when Mintpaw burst into the clearing.

Blood ran down her shoulders and she gasped, "Two RiverClan toms attacked Sparrowstrike and I while we went hunting! He told me to get help in case there were more."

Duskstar narrowed his eyes, "Go to camp and see the medicine cat, Shadowpaw come with me to the RiverClan border."

Mintpaw dashed off again and Shadowpaw's heart raced as she thought about her father, she pelted into the trees leaving Duskstar to follow her as she rushed headstrong to where her father was at the a RiverClan border.

Shadowpaw leaped onto a tree, jumping off of it as she heard the river ahead. She heard the sound of cats fighting and picked up speed.

Shadowpaw burst from the trees, Duskstar behind her. The two RiverClan cats took one look and leaped into the river, swimming across the current to the other side.

Shadowpaw narrowed her eyes at the two RiverClan tom cats, but then she remembered her father.

The black tom lay on the stone, utterly still. Shadowpaw crouched and crawled forward, nudging him gently, "Dad?" Her voice croaked.

Her father didn't move and understanding flooded through her. She buried her head in her fathers torn pelt. Duskstar bowed his head and let her lay with her father.

Shadowpaw heard Frostflower's voice in her head, Shadowpaw,

even though your father is not with you anymore, don't forget the good things, don't give into darkness.

Shadowpaw opened her eyes, looking across he river where the two toms disappeared. Dark hatred burned in her gaze, and another voice, Shadeheart's said, *Give into the darkness Death-bringer, those two toms took away your father, don't you want revenge?*

Shadowpaw narrowed her eyes and thought, *yes, I do*. She heard Shadeheart snicker darkly, *and what kind of revenge do you want death-bringer?*

Shadowpaw unsheathed her claws and replied, *blood, I want those toms dead just like my father.*

Shadeheart replied, *welcome to the Dark Forest family Shadowpaw, you have an extraordinary destiny ahead of you*.

Duskstar gently nudged Shadowpaw to her paws, grief in his gaze as he picked up her fathers body. Shadowpaw felt sadness like an icy thorn in her heart, and her paws hm felt heavy as she padded to camp, dazed.

Fawndapple was guarding the camp when she saw us, her eyes wide with horror when se saw Sparrowstrike. Shadowpaw stumbled after Duskstar, collapsing by her fathers body when he set it down carefully.

Shadowpaw buried her head in his fur, pinning her ears as a wail erupted from the warriors den and Poppytail bolted out of camp with a few other warriors trailing after the grief-filled she-cat.

Bumblepaw's scent filled the air as her brother lay down beside her, pressing against his sister to comfort her.

Shadowpaw felt fury rise in her heart, mixing with her grief. *I swear to the Dark Forest that the two toms who murdered my father will pay, they will pay with their lives.*

(WOW well that happened right! Hope you enjoyed this chapter, poor Shadowpaw, so close to being good until she lost the cat she cared about the most, R.I.P Sparrowstrike. Comment your

opinions and I'll write the next chapter when I can! <3 Jade)

Chapter 10

Shadowpaw was eager to sleep that night, and was as glad as she could be considering how sad and furious she was. Shadeheart stood in front of her, his yellow eyes boring into hers, "So you wish to kill these two warriors?"

Shadowpaw nodded, her eyes sparking with rage as the two RiverClan cats were mentioned. Shadeheart grinned, "The time is now, tonight, I will guide you, if you trunk your ready?"

Shadowpaw snarled, "Of course I'm ready." Shadeheart looked taken aback by her temper, then grinned darkly. Shadowpaw closed her eyes, opening them again to be in the apprentices den. The other cats were curled up sleeping, and she silently creeped out of the den, careful not to tread on Foxpaw's tail.

Shadowpaw followed Shadeheart's instructions and headed for the dirt tunnel, clinging to the shadows so she was practically invisible.

Shadowpaw waited until the camp guard looked the other way to slip out into the forest, she found wild garlic and rolled in it to disguise her scent.

Finally she hared away to RiverClan, bounding silently over the stepping stones.

Shadowpaw padded along, the revolting fish stink getting stronger, and a wall of reeds appeared ahead. That must be the camp! Shadowpaw crouched and slipped through the dirtplace tunnel.

The black she-cat slunk into the RiverClan warriors den. When she saw the two toms who killed her father she almost lost it, but Shadeheart warned her to keep her cool.

Shadowpaw jabbed the two cats and they leaped to their paws, staring at the young black she-cat in surprise. Shadowpaw whirled around, slowly waving her tail back and forth as she padded out the

dirtplace tunnel.

She heard the pawsteps of the cats following, and one of them called out, "Who are you!" Shadowpaw broke into a run, and the cats pursued her.

Shadowpaw skidded to a stop at the RiverClan and ThunderClan border. She sat and turned her head toward the two cats with a smile as they slowed down in front of her.

The larger tom bristled and growled, "Why are you on our territory!" The smaller tom sent a harsh glare toward the bigger cat, and said in a gentle tone, "Could you leave our land, we don't want trouble."

Shadowpaw giggled, "Sorry but I cant." The smaller tom tilted his head, "Why is that?" Shadowpaw giggled again, "Well I cant kill you two in another clans territory."

The two toms recoiled in surprise, and Shadowpaw giggled again, as if she were joking and the other two cats laughed a bit too.

Lightning fast Shadowpaw lashed out, slicing the bigger toms neck. The smaller tom stared frozen in horror as his friend let out a strange gurgling sound and collapsed onto the stone, blood pouring onto the stone.

The smaller tom regained his senses and unsheathed his claws, snarling where the she-cat had been, but the black cat was gone.

The tom backed away horrified, and ran straight into Shadowpaw. His bloodcurdling scream was abruptly cut off as she slit his throat, washing her paws off in the stream.

Shadowpaw grinned with one last look at the two cats bodies before sneaking back into camp and curling up in her nest.

Shadowpaw closed her eyes, darkly satisfied with her actions, surprising herself with how good she felt killing those two cats, truly revenge was sweet.

(If that isn't a bad kitty I don't know what is! Tell me what you

guys think in the comments! Thanks for reading this chapter and I hope you liked it! <3 Jade)

Chapter 11

Shadowpaw woke up the next day, and memory surged through her. Shadowpaw felt an icy chill tingle along her spine, it scared her that she didn't feel guilt. She knew she should feel guilt but she just... Didn't.

Shadowpaw shook her head to clear the thoughts from her troubled mind. Shadowpaw prodded Foxpaw and Mintpaw awake, Bumblepaw and Swanpaw already gone on the Dawn patrol.

Foxpaw shook his pelt with a yawn, and Mintpaw groomed her pelt. "So Shadowpaw, would you like to go hunting with me?" Foxpaw asked.

Shadowpaw nodded figuring that hunting with Foxpaw will take her mind off of things, "Sure."

The rust colored apprentice smiled and stood, "Well then let's go!" Shadowpaw smiled and leaped to her paws, padding after him as he led the way out of the den.

Shadowpaw caught a glimpse of Mintpaw glaring at her with narrowed eyes. She ignored the other she-cat and sped up to limp beside the other apprentice.

Crowclaw was in the clearing, ordering patrols and Foxpaw called, "I'm going to take Shadowpaw hunting!" The deputy flicked his ear to show he had heard.

The sun glinted through the trees warming Shadowpaw's pelt as they padded out of camp. "Hey Foxpaw want a race?" Shadowpaw asked, grinning mischievously.

Foxpaw smirked, "You sure?" Shadowpaw laughed, "You'll be eating my dust mouse-brain" Foxpaw laughed, "Lets see."

Shadowpaw crouched, "Here to the stream by the great birch?" She

asked, and Foxpaw nodded, crouching. Shadowpaw tensed her muscles, focusing intently ahead, "Ready, set, go!" She yowled, her paws kicking up dust as she propelled herself forward.

Foxpaw rushed ahead, and Shadowpaw was hard on his heels. She lengthened her stride, feeling the wind in her fur as she streaked up beside the older apprentice.

Foxpaw swerved to try and knock her into a tree, but Shadowpaw saw what he was going to do, so she slowed down at the last moment.

Foxpaw yelped in surprise and bumped into the tree, "Oh you little!" He laughed and darted after the black she-cat.

Shadowpaw zig-zagged to block his path as he tried to pass her. Shadowpaw spotted the great birch and river ahead, but her twisted paw caught on a fern and she yowled as she tripped and tumbled into the clearing.

Shadowpaw lay still, closing her eyes and thinking, *I'm gonna scare the fur off him!* She heard Foxpaw skid to a stop with a meow of surprise.

She heard him hold his breath as he placed a paw on her flank carefully.

"Shadowpaw? Are you okay?" He gently shook her and Shadowpaw let her head fall back limply when he shook her.

Panic was hinted in Foxpaw's meow, "Shadowpaw?!" She opened her eyes barely so he couldn't tell, he sun glinted off his rusty pelt, and his golden eyes were wide with fright.

Shadowpaw heaved up suddenly, leaping into Foxpaw and pinning him with sheathed claws. "Pinned ya!"

The rust colored apprentice narrowed his eyes, "You little!" He leaped up and the two apprentices rolled around play fighting and laughing.

Shadowpaw rolled and pinned him to the ground, "Pinned ya

again!" Foxpaw laughed and Shadowpaw let him stand. The black she-cat grinned mischievously, "I got you so good didn't I?" The older apprentice laughed, "I must admit that you most definitely did."

The black she-cat caught a strange scent, "Do you smell that?" The other apprentice stood, narrowing his eyes, "Yes, I've smelled it before, what did my mentor say it was called?" A deep growl sounded from the shadows and a large creature stepped into the clearing, snarling and baring its huge fangs.

Foxpaw darted between the creature and Shadowpaw with a snarl. The giant russet creature growled again, hard muscles rippling under its pelt.

"Shadowpaw stay behind me!" Foxpaw hissed, unsheathing his claws. Fear sounded in his yowl as he lunged for the fox, slashing the predators muzzle.

Shadowpaw snapped out of her daze and snarled, unsheathing her claws and leaping onto the foxes side, raking its sides.

"Shadowpaw stay back, I don't want you to get hurt!" Foxpaw yowled, clawing the predators ears. "I can take care of myself!" She spat, ducking to avoid the creatures jaws, hearing them snap by her ears.

Shadowpaw's mind worked quickly, and she took a deep breath, the world moving slower around her, but she could still move fast.

She saw a nick in the foxes shoulder from a previous fight, and hurled herself at its hard muscled shoulder, sinking her fangs into the nick.

The fox shrieked in pain and shook her off, she lost her focus when she hit the ground, things moving normally once again.

Shadowpaw shook her head and yowled when she saw the fox lunging for her. Suddenly Foxpaw was in the way, knocking her back.

Then fox sank its teeth into Foxpaw's neck and he shrieked in pain.

The fox threw he apprentice to the side like he was a piece of prey.

"Foxpaw no!" Shadowpaw screeched in horror, fury blazed through her and she snarled fiercely, rocketing into the fox.

A red mist of fury covered her gaze and she slashed at its shoulder, hissing as its claws raked her side.

Shadowpaw darted in front of it and slashed her claws down its chest. The fox yelped and turned, running off.

Shadowpaw blinked the haze from her eyes, *what did I just do...* Then she remembered Foxpaw.

Shadowpaw darted over to the apprentice, relieved to see the unconscious tom breathing slightly. Shadowpaw pressed her paws to his neck to slow the bleeding, panic rising in her chest. "Help!" She yowled as loud as she could.

Shadowpaw's heart almost leaped out of her chest from relief when she heard cats thundering toward her. Swiftfoot appeared with Quailfeather and Crowclaw hard on her heels, the she-cat yowled in surprise and skidded to a stop beside Shadowpaw, looking at her apprentice with wide eyes. "Quailfeather, Swiftfoot get Foxpaw to the medicine den now, Shadowpaw what happened here?" Crowclaw meowed, his voice calming.

The two warriors carried off the rust colored apprentice, and Shadowpaw turned to Crowclaw, "There was a fox, it was going to kill me but Foxpaw knocked me out of the way..."

Crowclaw nodded slowly, "What happened to the fox?" Shadowpaw shifted her paws, "I chased it off after it did that to Foxpaw." The deputy looked surprised, "Even warriors have a hard time with that, let's get you to camp you had quite a scare."

Shadowpaw didn't disagree, the fox had scared her, and she was worried sick about her friend.

Crowclaw led the way back to camp, Shadowpaw lost in thought. They padded into camp, and Shadowpaw ducked into the medicine cat den.

Ivyleaf was crouched over Foxpaw, pressing cobwebs to his wound.

The medicine cat stayed focused and she meowed, "You can go ahead and lay down in an empty nest, I'll be there once I do all I can here."

Shadowpaw didn't argue as she settled down in the nest, her mind wandering to what happened. *Why am I so different from everyone?*

(I hope you guys liked this chapter! It seems pretty long to me, comment your thoughts and opinions! I'll write the next chapter when I can! <3 Jade)

Chapter 12

Shadowpaw jumped awake when a startled and scared yowl sliced through the morning air. Shadowpaw leaped to her paws, shaking moss from her fur and limped out of the medicine clearing to see Ivyleaf in the clearing, fur spiked up with terror.

Duskstar was at the medicine cats side instantly, "What happened?" He demanded, raising his tail to keep cats from crowding the she-cat.

Ivytail looked at the leader with wide eyes, "I-I was standing here, then suddenly I looked up to be at the gathering place, I looked around and the found became blood, then I saw the bodies, cats from all clans dead, sinking into the ground."

She paused for a breath before continuing shakily, Then looked up to see a cat, I couldn't tell who it was or whether it was a tom or she-cat, but the cat sat tall in the middle of the clearing, it had bodies all around it, and dark shadowy cats came into the clearing from the shadows, gathering behind the small cat, then it grinned and suddenly I was here again." The medicine cat looked as distraught as Duskstar from the news.

Ivyleaf straightened up, "StarClan's message was clear, a clan cat will destroy us all." A hushed whisper spread through the clan, and Duskstar stood, "We should try and find out who this cat is."

Shadowpaw narrowed her eyes, knowing that the cat in Ivyleaf's vision must have been her. Shadowpaw stood and meowed, "Maybe we should consult the other medicine cats first? What if they had the same dream?"

The cats' eyes turned on her, then to Duskstar, who blinked slowly, thinking hard.

"I agree with young Shadowpaw, Ivyleaf you should go to speak with the medicine cats of the other clans, bring an escort along with

you though." Duskstar meowed.

Ivyleaf turned to Shadowpaw, "I don't need to much protection, but I'll take Shadowpaw along with me because it was her idea."

Duskstar dipped his head, motioning with his tail for the clan to continue their routine.

Shadowpaw felt a flicker of doubt now that the clan knew there was an evil cat about, but a more chilling question came to her: *what if the evil cat wasn't her, but somebody even worse?*

(That took a while XD I hope you guys enjoyed this chapter, it's really short but the next one is long! Comment your comments XD <3 Jade)

Chapter 13

"Hey Shadowpaw, come with me to get traveling herbs, and I want to check Foxpaw before we go as well." Ivyleaf called back to the black she-cat. Shadowpaw nodded and pushed through the brambles after the medicine cat. Foxpaw was still asleep when they arrived, and Shadowpaw felt another prickle of guilt for the other apprentice.

Ivyleaf's voice snapped her out of her thoughtful daze, "Here are your traveling herbs, they'll be bitter but you'll be glad for them in the end."

Shadowpaw dipped her head in thanks and lapped up the leaves, their sharp taste causing her to wrinkle her nose. Ivyleaf's tail flicked slowly as she gently sniffed Foxpaw's wounds, "He should be fine if he rests, we have a lot of ground to cover, lets head out."

Shadowpaw stretched, her sleek black fur glinting in the sun. The medicine cat ducked through the tunnel, Shadowpaw following close behind. The clan cats still left in camp meowed their farewells and wished the two cats good luck. Shadowpaw let out a sigh once they padded out into the forest, the grass cool under her paws. "RiverClan is closest, we will travel there first." Ivyleaf meowed, twining through trees and ducking to avoids the dense undergrowth.

Before long Shadowpaw's ears perked at the sound of trickling water, which steadily grew into the louder rush of the river. The cool, fresh scent of water followed the sound.

Shadowpaw wrinkled her nose as the stench of RiverClan hit the roof of her mouth. Ivyleaf led the way over the stepping stones and onto the RiverClan side of the shore.

Sharp pebbles dug into the pads on Shadowpaw's paws, causing her to wince. Ivyleaf continued toward the camp, "Keep your fur flat, we don't want to look hostile."

Shadowpaw made sure to flatten her sleek pelt, "Got it." She meowed in reply. Blinking her eyes against the bright shafts of light Shadowpaw saw the colorful reeds and ferns of the RiverClan camp ahead, and the flashes of fur through patches in the wall confirmed her thoughts.

Ivyleaf approached the entrance, and two RiverClan guards leaped to their paws, the fur on their shoulders rising. The first one, a large bramble tabby narrowed his eyes, "Why have you come!"

Ivyleaf kept her meow steady, "I am ThunderClans medicine cat, or have you forgotten?" Shadowpaw giggled inwardly at the medicine cats sharp remark.

The other warrior ground his teeth and meowed, "Why are you in RiverClan?" Ivyleaf met his eyes with a calm gaze, "I must speak to Elmcloud."

The RiverClan warriors narrowed their eyes, then stepped aside for the two cats to pass. Shadowpaw kept her gaze ahead as she followed the medicine cat into the camp.

A large tom stood and padded forward to greet the two cats, Ivyleaf dipped her head in greeting, "Shellstar." The tom dipped his head, "My apologies for the guards, two of our warriors were murdered so we have increased patrols." Ivyleaf looked surprised, and Shadowpaw mocked the look convincingly.

The RiverClan leader whisked his tail to dismiss the thought, "Why have you come to RiverClan? Nothing bad I hope."

Ivyleaf shifted her paws slightly, "A troubling vision." The leaders eyes flashed and he nodded, his lowering his voice, "Go right ahead to speak with her, she should be back in her den." Shadowpaw dipped her head quietly to the leader, and padded with the medicine cat. "Shadowpaw, will you wait here please, and don't cause trouble." The she-cat winked and padded through the wall of reeds. Shadowpaw rolled her eyes and settled down, her gaze sweeping over the RiverClan cats.

A silver and white she-cat padded over with a smile, "Hello."

Shadowpaw blinked and dipped her head, "Hello." She meowed.

The RiverClan cat sat next to her, "I'm Silverfrost, and you are?" Shadowpaw was taken aback by the other clan cats friendliness, "Shadowpaw, I'm Shadowpaw." The black cat meowed. Silverfrost was about t say something when a dark gray tom called, "Silverfrost, we need you on the hunting patrol!" The she-cat sighed, "Coming Stormpool!"

Shadowpaw dipped her head in a polite farewell as the RiverClan cat padded off, disappearing through the reeds. Not that much time passed before Ivyleaf padded out once again, looking troubled, "Elmcloud had the same vision, she's going to WindClan, and it's up to us to visit ShadowClan."

Shadowpaw nodded, stretching and following the medicine cat out of the RiverClan camp after quick and polite farewells.

Shadowpaw was glad to be away from RiverClan, and let her thoughts wander as they padded toward ShadowClan. The trees began to grow closer together, and rank smell of ShadowClan grew stronger.

Shadowpaw gazed curiously around the dark forest as the medicine cat trekked onward. The marshy pine covered earth below her paws almost reminded her of the Dark Forest.

Ivyleaf halted abruptly, sending Shadowpaw crashing from her thoughts. The she-cat tensed as cats melted from the shadows, surrounding them.

One of the warriors glared at them with fierce eyes, "Why are you in our territory ThunderClan spies!" She spat.

Ivyleaf met the cats gaze, "We are not spies, we have come because we must speak with Gingerleaf." A dark pelted tom gently shouldered the she-cat, "Come on Jaywing, let's take them to camp, two cats are no threat to our clan."

The she-cat looked like she wanted to argue, but kept her jaws clamped shut. The ShadowClan cats nudged the ThunderClan cats

through the darkly lit forest.

Shadowpaw dug her claws into the ground as a tom nudged her rudely from behind. "Get a move on *Tinypaw*." The tom teased. Shadowpaw clenched her jaws as anger surged through her pelt. A densely built wall of brambles appeared ahead, and the ShadowClan cats ducked into the well hidden entrance.?

F Curious gazes set upon the newcomers, and a small she-cat poked through the crowd. "Ivyleaf, good to see you old friend, what brings you here to ShadowClan?" The two cats touched noses in a polite greeting. Ivyleaf lowered her voice and meowed quietly, the ShadowClan medicine cats eyes widened and she meowed, "Go on and continue your duties, I must speak with Ivyleaf." Shadowpaw waited in the shaded clearing, her eyes on her paws as she thought.

After what seemed like moons before Ivyleaf finally padded back out, motioning for Shadowpaw to follow her out of camp. "So far ThunderClan, RiverClan, and ShadowClan have had the same vision, I'm guessing WindClan has to. Whatever StarClan is warning us about, whatever is lurking in the shadows ahead, it's going to be disastrous."

(Wow lots of stuff I've been doing! Really busy stuff, but I hope you guys enjoyed this chapter, sorry it took like 19248733 days to come out! <3 Jade)

Chapter 14

Shadowpaw padded into camp, trailing behind the medicine cat, lost in deep, focused thought. "Can you go check on Foxpaw for me please, Shadowpaw?" Ivyleaf asked. The black she-cat nodded and trotted across the soft grass, which reminded her how nice it was to be back in her own clan. She ducked through the undergrowth into the medicine clearing. Foxpaw sat in the shade of his nest, licking a paw. Mintpaw, whom was sitting beside him glared at her, her eyes showing a small flash of anger before she covered it up.

"Hello Shadowpaw." Mintpaw purred through clenched teeth. Foxpaw's eyes glinted as he looked up at Shadowpaw with a joyous grin, "Shadowpaw is it true you chased off the fox?!"

Shadowpaw laughed and padded over, sitting on the other side of Foxpaw. Mintpaw cast another fiery sideways glare, but Shadowpaw ignored the other she-cats hostility. Shadowpaw laughed, "You just wake up and the first thing you want to know about is the fight."

Foxpaw smiled sheepishly, "Elders told me you chased it off alone." Shadowpaw shrugged and shifted her paws, her ears hot. "It didn't take much, just a lucky strike."

Foxpaw shifted with a wince to turn more toward Shadowpaw, and her ears perked, "Easy you'll hurt yourself!" Foxpaw laughed, "Yes, mother." He mocked.

Shadowpaw laughed, gently nudging her friend with her twisted paw. Mintpaw snarled silently, Foxpaw's back now facing her, she stood and stomped off. Foxpaw tilted his head, "Whats her problem?" Shadowpaw grinned mischievously, "Maybe she finally caught a good whiff of your stench!"

Foxpaw laughed and joked, "But I just rolled in fox-dung to make me smell better!"

Shadowpaw giggled, "No wonder you still smell better then usual." Foxpaw laughed again, and Shadowpaw heard the ferns shake as Ivyleaf appeared through them, "Okay you two jokesters break it up, Foxpaw needs his rest." Shadowpaw grinned and meowed her good-byes before padding into the quickly darkening clearing.

Shadowpaw stretched and picked a mouse from the fresh-kill pile, her aching paws reminding her of the long walk. Shadowpaw finished up her meal in a few ravenous bites, then slunk over to her nest in the apprentices den.

Shadowpaw closed her eyes with a yawn, shifting into the nest. Sleep seemed to come as soon as her eyes closed, a dark tide washing over her in a whirling torrent.

Shadowpaw woke up in a familiar forest with dark ominous trees, and slick marshy ground. Shadeheart padded from the shadows, "Greetings death-bringer." He meowed in a deep voice.

Shadowpaw dipped her head, raking her claws over the marshy ground, "Hello Shadeheart, what am I learning today?" The dark warrior thought for a moment, shadows swirling through his pelt and around his paws as he walked a circle around her.

"Let's continue practicing free form fighting." He decided eventually. Shadowpaw didn't pause, she whipped around to face him, swiping for his muzzle, but the warrior sidestepped quickly.

Shadowpaw ducked under his next blow, and took in a deep breath, feeling her surroundings slow. Shadowpaw saw Shadeheart move slower as he prepared to strike, and she darted around him, aiming quick sharp blows to the skin between his ribs.

Shadeheart yipped, and Shadowpaw didn't see his paw until it was too late, his blow connecting to the side of her head and sending her sprawling out of her slow-time.

"That's a good trick, but stay focused, don't let yourself get distracted, focus on my moves and use my strength against me." He advised. Shadowpaw nodded determinedly, slowing things down in her mind once more.

Shadowpaw saw him rear up, his large paws arching for her once more. Shadowpaw turned, sliding out her hind leg to sweep his hind legs out from under him, sending the large tom crashing down.

Instantly Shadowpaw struck his stomach with staggering accuracy. Shadeheart grunted, "Very good." The two cats exchanged well placed blows, Shadowpaw finding a strangely calming rhythm in the flow of motion, *swipe, duck, twist, kick, dodge, swipe, duck, twist, kick, dodge.*

Shadowpaw felt the steady rhythm in the fight, and although blood pounded in her ears, she was able to remain icy calm during the fight, leaving her mind open for quicker reactions and direct accuracy.

"Very promising." Shadeheart growled, ducking under a swipe aimed for his ears. The two exchanged blows and dodges in an ever changing rhythm for what seemed like ages.

Finally the two broke apart panting, "Sit, its time for you to know our plan. It's not the full thing yet, which is where you come in." Shadowpaw sat, searching his eyes as he spoke, her ears pricked intently as she listened to her well-respected dark forest mentor.

"We are training a pawful of warriors and apprentices from each clan, and when your ready I will call the meeting for all of them to join, where they will all meet each other for the first time, and where they will meet their leader."

Shadowpaw blinked, "Leader?" Shadeheart nodded curtly before continuing, "Their leader will address them, introducing a new rule."

Shadowpaw nodded slowly, "Who is this leader? If you know." Shadeheart grinned, "The leader, young death-bringer, is you, of course."

Shadowpaw felt her heart skip a beat, but couldn't decide whether it was from excitement, or nervousness. Shadeheart nudged her with a dark grin, "When your ready to meet your... starting alliance, let me know."

Shadowpaw's heart raced at the thought, *leader of these cats? Me? I don't know if I'm capable enough...*

Shadeheart looked at her with a slight frown, "I can see the doubt in your eyes, I will tell you what you should work on. I have seen the thirst for blood within you, you have to be ready to shed blood at any time, yet not let your clan cats be suspicious. You will need to work on hiding the emotion in your eyes, I want it to be like looking at a stone. Finally, you should work on moving silently, I don't want to hear a single noise as you walk, now rest, gain your strength, we have a lot of training ahead of us."

(Yay another chapter! And it didn't take 29372 days!! Comment your thoughts and comments of course! Hope your enjoying the book <3 Jade)

Chapter 15

A paw jabbing her in the ribs woke Shadowpaw with a start. Swanpaw stood over her, "Wake up!" She meowed, Shadowpaw yawned and rolled over, tired from hunting all day. "Why am I waking up now again?" She yawned, Swanpaw rolled her eyes, "Because the gathering is happening you lump of fur!" Shadowpaw leaped to her paws and laughed, "Then what in the name of StarClan are we doing waiting around!"

Swanpaw laughed and trotted after her, "I wasn't the one sleeping." She meowed teasingly. Shadowpaw let out a mock growl and rocketed into the other apprentice, claws sheathed.

Swanpaw laughed and the two cats rolled around exchanging playful cuffs on the ears, Shadowpaw making sure she didn't give her fighting skill away.

Duskstar's meow made the two apprentices leap to their paws, ears burning with embarrassment, "I can see you two are getting in some valuable practice eh?"

"Yes we are working on the skill of... Erm..." Shadowpaw began, and Swanpaw interrupted, "The skill of me beating Shadowpaw!"

"Yeah!" Shadowpaw meowed, "Wait, no way! You only wish you could beat me." The two she-cats laughed, and the leader did too, "Come on, let's get going or we're going to be late."

Shadowpaw felt excitement burn through her, *my first gathering!* She thought.

Shadowpaw kept pace with the leader, her twisted paw barely bothering her. Duskstar kept the quick pace as he began talking to his apprentice.

"Remember, we want to find out things about other clans, talk to them, but don't give anything away." He meowed, and Shadowpaw

nodded.

Duskstar stopped at the top of the clearing, and Shadowpaw gasped at the sight of so many cats, RiverClan cats where there, mingled with ShadowClan and WindClan too.

Duskstar flicked his tail, and the ThunderClan cats poured down into the clearing, greeting cats from other clans, and finding their place in the crowd.

Shadowpaw found Swanpaw, and the two apprentices caught up with Mintpaw and padded to where a large group of apprentices were.

A dark brown and black tom looked up, his storm gray eyes on Shadowpaw and meowed, "Hello, haven't seen you around here, you a new apprentice?"

Shadowpaw nodded, "Yes, I am." The tom grinned, "No need to be formal with us." Shadowpaw grinned, sitting next to the tom, the smell of marshland told her he was from ShadowClan.

A light and dark brown tom flung a clump of moss at one of the warriors in front of them, then tried to look unsuspicious as the cat whirled around.

The apprentices giggled, and the dark tom meowed, "Well, I am Rotpaw, of ShadowClan, this is Weaselpaw," he pointed his tail at the brown tom, "and this is Spiderpaw of WindClan." He pointed toward a black tom, who silently dipped his head.

Swanpaw stretched, "This is Shadowpaw, and Bumblepaw is over there causing trouble as usual." Swanpaw pointed her tail toward where Shadowpaw's brother was about to put ants onto a warriors pelt.

Shadowpaw looked at Rotpaw, "So how is ShadowClan do-" she was cut off as a large RiverClan tom knocked her aside. Shadowpaw hissed and the tom turned, she recognized Stormpool from the RiverClan camp. "Sorry I didn't know they brought kits to gatherings." He sneered.

Shadowpaw snarled, "I'm not a kit!" He shrugged and muttered, "So touchy for a tiny kitten." Shadowpaw was about to hiss a remark when Rotpaw was standing beside her, his fur bristling, the large young cat was just as big as the warrior, "Leave her be Stormpool." He growled.

Stormpool narrowed his eyes, the fur rising along his spine, but Silverfrost darted in between the two cats, shouldering the RiverClan warrior away, "Your going to break the truce fish-brain."

The two cats walked away, and Rotpaw smoothed his ruffled pelt, the other apprentices were deep in a conversation.

"Umm, thanks." Shadowpaw meowed, then added defensively, "But I so could've handled that mouse-brain." Rotpaw grinned charmingly, "You probably could have turned him inside out."

A loud yowl split the air, and Shadowpaw sat next to Rotpaw, gazing up where the leaders stood. A broad black tom dipped his head to the other cats and stood to speak.

"That's Batstar, he's my leader." Rotpaw meowed to her quietly. Shadowpaw huffed, "Why 'bat' I wonder?" Rotpaw snickered, "Maybe its because he drinks the blood of innocent apprentices."

Shadowpaw laughed and meowed, "Or maybe he shrinks to the size of a bat when he's angry." Rotpaw laughed and joked, "Not as impressive as when I become rot to defend myself."

Shadowpaw laughed, "I bet you'd smell better as rot." A tabby warrior in front of them turned and hissed, "Hush the leaders are speaking!" Shadowpaw grinned at Rotpaw, trying not to laugh as the apprentice mimicked the warrior, making funny faces.

Throughout the rest of the gathering the two cats were hushed often, but were not phased by the older cats words.

When the gathering was over, and the moon was beginning to fall in the sky Shadowpaw meowed farewell to Rotpaw and all the other apprentices, then bounded alongside Bumblepaw and Swanpaw to catch up with the other ThunderClan cats as they left,

Mintpaw already disappearing with the crowd.

Swanpaw shouldered Shadowpaw with a mischievous glint in her rurs , "You were awfully close with Rotpaw." Bumblepaw snickered.

Shadowpaw rolled her eyes, "He's just a friend." Bumblepaw grinned at his sister, "Riiight your busy mooning over Foxpaw." Shadowpaw felt her ears grow hot, "I do not moon over him!" Swanpaw shrugged and meowed casually, "Too bad, its clear to every cat that he moons over you."

Shadowpaw scowled and the other toe dropped that conversation, joking around about something else. Shadowpaw remembered the story of Owlstar, who learned certain skills from an owl, then she realized, *what if I studied all kinda of animals to learn from them! If I can pull it off it would be a great advantage*. Shadowpaw grinned at the thought, *these next moons will be full of hard training, but I get the feeling it will be worth it.*

(Hey everybody! Sorry these chapters still take a while to type but I hope you enjoyed the chapter! And who do you guys like more Rotpaw, or Foxpaw?)

Chapter 16

The next three moons had gone buy in a blur of exhausting training all day with Duskstar, and night with Shadeheart.

Shadowpaw sat in the clearing by the Great Birch, eyes closed, her ears pricked as she reflected on her last few moons.

Foxpaw had healed since his injuries, and he and Shadowpaw grew closer and closer, and Mintpaw grew more and more malicious towards the black she-cat.

Moons of training had paid off for Shadowpaw, she was still the size of a eight moon apprentice, but her sleek pelt rippled from the hard muscle beneath.

Shadowpaw sat tall, breathing deeply as she focused on her surroundings, her narrow face, unlike the other broad headed clan cats, matched her thin, sleek frame.

Shadowpaw had learned from not only animals and predators of all kinds, but also from sneaking into other clans' territories and watching them train their apprentices.

Shadowpaw learned from squirrels to run circles around her opponent, using the confusion against them. She had learned from foxes to patiently wait, crouched hidden among the shadows until it was the perfect time to strike, and from badgers that brute strength can be defeated with quick, accurately placed blows.

She had learned from a Great Horned Owl how to ambush prey from above, and how to wait for the perfect moment to strike lightning fast from observing adders as they hunted for nice among the silvery rocks.

During the full moons the apprentices usually got along, especially her and Rotpaw, and even quiet Spiderpaw from WindClan.

Shadowpaw sighed lightly and stood, stretching, her shiny black fur glinting in the pale leaf-fall sun. The she-cat was about to return to camp, when a cat padded from the trees.

The long tailed tabby she-cat shifted her paws and meowed, "Can I talk to you Shadowpaw?" The black she-cat stared at her mother, caught by surprise that she would actually want to talk with her.

"If we can walk and talk, sure Poppytail, I wanted to get a drink at the stream." Shadowpaw replied after a few heartbeats of hesitation. Poppytail nodded, her gaze blank and unreadable. Shadowpaw walked alongside her mother, the momentary silence as they padded on heavy with awkwardness.

"I saw you Shadowpaw." She meowed after an achingly long silence. Shadowpaw felt her heartbeat quicken, "What do you mean?" She asked calmly. Poppytail circled in front of her daughter, her eyes glinting as she whispered, "I saw you murder those two RiverClan cats..."

Shadowpaw narrowed her eyes, "What are you talking about?" Poppytail's fur bristled and she meowed, "Your the cat StarClan is warning us about, aren't you?"

Shadowpaw stared at her mother for a few long heartbeats, then meowed, "I wish you really hadn't said that, trust me, I do." Poppytail pinned her ears, staring at her daughter.

Lightning fast Shadowpaw whirled around, leaping off the base of a tree, and pinning her mother to the ground, "Don't move." She hissed, her long claws at her mothers throat.

Poppytail stared at her with wide, scared eyes. "You know, I spent so long trying to impress you, trying to be good enough for you to look at me the way you look at Bumblepaw." The pinned she-cat blinked slowly.

Shadowpaw snarled, "I just wanted you to be proud of me." Poppytail closed her eyes and breathed, "I'm sorry..." Shadowpaw looked away and meowed, "Sorry." Shadowpaw echoed plainly. Shadowpaw felt a pit in her stomach, but ignored it, unsheathing

her claws she sliced her mothers throat with a wince.

Shadowpaw met her mothers gaze and meowed, "Its a little late for sorry, mother." The she-cat opened her mouth, like she was going to say something, but her head lolled backwards and her eyes glazed over.

Shadowpaw felt the pit in her stomach evaporate, and she calmly licked the blood from her claws. Shadowpaw felt a strange feeling coursing through her, and she grinned darkly.

Feel that? That's what its like to be triumphant, what its like to be evil, you love it don't you, the flow of blood, the victory. She heard Shadeheart's meow, and thought*, yes, I do like this, I was afraid I wouldn't, but now that I have killed for more then revenge, I understand.*

Shadowpaw sighed, and hauled her mother into the stream, making sure none of her black fur was in between her claws, and then rinsed her paws from extra blood.

Shadowpaw padded back to camp, a mouse and starling in her jaws. The rest of the day she spent chatting with the elders, and apprentices, and even running a few quick chores for Duskstar.

Shadowpaw grinned and remembered when Shadeheart told her that she could address her cats when she is ready, and she was ready, she could feel it.

(Not that long of a chapter, I know, but lemme hear your thoughts! When I was reading over this chapter I realized what I love about this book so much, instead of being about the hero of the story, the book is about the villain, if I write it right you guys will want her to win XD, anyway hope you guys liked it! <3 Jade)

Chapter 17

The dark trees loomed over Shadowpaw as she woke in the Dark Forest, the familiar peaty ground slimy under her paws. Shadeheart circled the small cat, thinking hard, "So your sure your ready?" He asked after what seemed like seasons.

Shadowpaw nodded, her fierce yellow eyes determined. Shadeheart held her gaze for a moment before meowing, "I will call the meeting, how will you address the cats?"

"I'll sit in the crowd of living and dead cats first, and then when the leader is being announced I'll stand and move to the top of the crooked branch." Shadowpaw answered, and he nodded slowly, "Very well death-bringer, I will gather the cats, they will come at once." Shadowpaw dipped her head, and sat, patiently waiting for her mentors return.

After a while of waiting, where Shadowpaw practiced a few battle moves to pass time, Shadeheart returned. "They are gathering as we speak, death-bringer." Shadowpaw grinned, sweeping her tail over his muzzle, "See you there then."

Shadowpaw padded toward the clearing, where a bare crooked branch, covered in dark moss, the bark stripped from the wood, cats gathered in the clearing, both living and non-living.

Shadowpaw stepped into the clearing, and recognized clan cats from the gatherings, from RiverClan there was Frogjump and Bluelight, along with Pebblepaw, who quietly murmured to eachother. She spotted Dogstrike, Kestrelpaw, and Rushwish from WindClan, who say talking with shadowy warriors from the dark forest.

Shadowpaw saw ThunderClan cats and bounded over to them, Sootcloud and Robinwing grinning as they greeted her.

Shadowpaw dipped her head to them, then padded to see more

cats. She recognized Nightwolf and Jaywing from ShadowClan, who padded over to talk with Dogstrike and Frogjump.

"Shadowpaw! Your here too!" She turned to see the giant shape of Rotpaw, she smiled, "Wow so many clan cats!" He nodded and meowed, "I wonder who the leader will be."

Shadowpaw was going to say something, when a yowl split the air, "Dark Forest warriors and warriors in training, quiet so we may introduce our rightful leader!" Shadeheart's deep meow echoed around the clearing. The clan cats sat, mixed in with the Dark Forest ones, and a quiet excited whisper fell over the cats, who were eager to meet their leader.

Shadeheart stepped to the side of the branch, making room at the top. Shadowpaw shouldered Rotpaw with a mischievous wink, the tom tilted his head. Shadowpaw stood, and all the cats' eyes turned to her.

She expected to feel nervous, but even with all the eyes on her she felt confident. Shadowpaw heard Rotpaw gasp excitedly as she padded past the cats.

The clearing was eerily silent as she leaped lightly onto the branch. "You?! You couldn't possibly lead us! Your just a scrawny, tiny little kitten!" Shadowpaw narrowed her eyes at a large Dark Forest cat, his light gray pelt rippling as he stared defiantly at her.

The dark forest cats started laughing, along with some of the Clan cats, Rotpaw spitting angrily at the closest clan cat who was mocking her.

Shadowpaw didn't say a word, she just calmly padded up to the cat that started the mocking. She looked into his defiant eyes, and lightning fast, so fast the other cats say they saw nothing but the tiniest blur of motion.

The defiant toms face lit up with surprise, and he let out a deep gurgling sound, blood soaking his chest and flowing down his neck.

Shadowpaw stared at him as he fell to the ground, fading into

nothing. Silence filled the clearing, until Rotpaw stood, "Shadowpaw! Shadowpaw!" He cheered, and the other cats stood, joining in with him, cheering for their dark leader.

Shadowpaw raised her meow, "I am Shadowpaw of ThunderClan, and I am the death-bringer, I am your leader!" The cats cheered louder, and Shadowpaw grinned darkly, her eyes flashing with malicious triumph as she looked at her new allies.

(Dun dun duuuuuuun! Wow that's short I know but intense, so there's that chapter, so comment your thoughts of this short chapter, lemme know what you think of this next step for Shadowpaw! Hope you guys enjoyed the chapter <3 Jade)

Chapter 18

Shadowpaw woke with a yawn, trenching before prodding Foxpaw awake, "Get up you lazy lump!" He groaned and batted her paw, "I don't waaaannaaaa."

Shadowpaw laughed and said, "Come on, let's go ask if we can join a patrol." Foxpaw sighed and leaped to his paws, shaking clumps of moss from his russet pelt.

Shadowpaw led the way out into the dimly lit clearing. Crowclaw stood, arranging patrols and sending off cats to hunt and gather fresh-kill for the upcoming leaf-bare.

"Crowclaw, is there a border patrol we can join?" Shadowpaw asked, padding alongside Foxpaw up to the deputy. The tom nodded and meowed, "You can join the patrol with Sedgeberry, Swiftfoot, and Thrushstripe."

Shadowpaw nodded and she bounded over to Swiftfoot, "We're on your patrol." The light brown tabby she-cat flicked her ear in acknowledgement, and then led the way out of camp.

Shadowpaw trailed with Foxpaw, both apprentices keeping pace with the older warriors. Shadowpaw leaped over a rock, and Foxpaw bounded after her as the warriors continued dashing toward the ShadowClan border.

Sedgeberry came to an abrupt stop, the other warriors skidding and almost running into eachother. Sedgeberry's fur was spiked up as she narrowed her eyes, staring through a dense section of brush.

"What is it Sedgeberry?" Thrushstripe asked quietly. The golden and brown she-cats ears were pricked and she opened her jaws to collect more scents.

Sedgeberry's eyes flew wide and she yowled, "ShadowClan!"

The thick undergrowth shook as ShadowClan cats leaped through it, yowling battle cries.

Foxpaw yowled beside Shadowpaw, squaring up to a tabby ShadowClan tom. Shadowpaw felt claws spike her tail, and she whipped around with a snarl to face Weaselpaw.

Shadowpaw took a breath, watching her surroundings slow around her. She saw Weaselpaw lunging for her, and darted to his side, leaping onto the larger apprentices back, and using her hind leg to sweep his paws out from under him.

The ShadowClan apprentice squealed as her claws tore down his pelt, and she twisted, swinging him over her and knocking him to the ground.

Shadowpaw aimed a sharp slash on his flanks before leaping onto the next enemy. Shadowpaw dragged a tom off of Thrushstripe, calculating his weakness. She chomped hard onto the toms shoulder, and he shrieked tearing from her grip and pelting off, leaving clumps of fur in Shadowpaw's claws.

She saw a tabby she-cat lunging for her, and leaped up into the air, slashing her claws down the she-cats spine as she soared by beneath her.

Shadowpaw twisted, biting the hindquarters of another ShadowClan she-cat as Foxpaw raked at her ears. Sedgeberry rolled by in a shrieking whirlwind of fur as she wrestled with a large tom.

Swiftfoot was back to back with Thrushstripe, the two cats exchanging expert blows to their opponents. Shadowpaw leaped and bowled a she-cat off of Foxpaw, sending her staggering with a hard kick of her hind legs. Shadowpaw whirled around to face her next opponent and came face to face with Nightwolf.

The two cats looked at each other, and Shadowpaw dipped her head to her, then leaped over her, and onto the cat behind her.

Shadowpaw felt claws rake her side and she hissed, grabbing a silver she-cat and flinging her back, sending her crashing into a

warrior Sedgeberry was fighting.

Shadowpaw whirled in a blur of fighting, slashing, ducking, and leaping over and over. Thrushstripe shrieked as a ShadowClan cat sank its fangs into his chest, and Swiftfoot hissed, batting a tom away.

Shadowpaw felt claws take her ear, and turned, spitting and clawing the toms face. A yowl split the air and ThunderClan cats poured into the fight, Duskstar leading the way with Swanpaw, Mintpaw, and Lionflame trailing close behind. Shadowpaw felt the tide of the battle turn in favor of ThunderClan as the fresh warriors plowed into the fight.

Shadowpaw slashed a toms muzzle, feeling brood spray as he squealed in pain, running right into Mintpaw's outstretched claws. Shadowpaw whirled around to see Foxpaw leap onto Rotpaw's back, sinking his fangs into the surprised apprentices neck. She raced across the clearing, jumping out of the way of Lionflame as he wrestled with a ShadowClan she-cat, and pulled Foxpaw off of the apprentice, "Your going to kill him Foxpaw! Help the others, I'll take care of Rotpaw."

The older apprentice hesitated, then nodded, leaping back into the fray. Shadowpaw dipped her head to Rotpaw, and he winked, turning and leaping away into the fight. Shadowpaw whipped around, knocking over a silvery she-cat before she leapt onto Lionflame. Shadowpaw felt herself sink into the order of slashing, ducking, leaping, and twisting as she overpowered the she-cat, sending her haring off with a fierce slash.

Shadowpaw felt her side, and one of her ears sting like fire, but she ignored it and continued fighting. She caught a glimpse of Batstar, who had Duskstar pinned to the grass, raising his paw with unsheathed claws for a killing blow on the ThunderClan leader. Lightining fast she leaped over a ShadowClan tom, who was wrestling with Swanpaw, darting between the ShadowClan leader and her mentor. Claws slashed down her chest and she shrieked in pain and fury, sinking her fangs into the leaders front leg.

Batstar yowled as Swanpaw, followed by Mintpaw and Foxpaw

streaked across the clearing, all the apprentices swarming the surprised leader. Batstar wrenched out of their grip, yowling, "ShadowClan! Reatreat!" Shadowpaw and the other apprentices joined in as some of the ThunderClan warriors chased the fleeing ShadowClan cats out of their territory.

The cats began padding back to the group from chasing off the remaining ShadowClan warriors, and the apprentices began chatting.

Swanpaw had a slash on her shoulder and a nick in her ear as she meowed on about how she chased off a huge ShadowClan tom.

Mintpaw, who had a nasty cut above her eye, and a bite on her haunches, began bragging about how she bit a she-cat so hard she was shrieking for mercy, and Foxpaw, who had a bad bite on his front paw, and clumps of russet fur hanging off his pelt, went on about how well all the apprentices fought while chasing out the leader.

Shadowpaw winced as pain lanced up her chest where the ShadowClan leader had slashed her, Shadowpaw felt the ground lurch below her.

Shadowpaw staggered with a surprised yelp as her paws gave way below her. Foxpaw was at her side instantly, his warm scent drifting around her. She blinked, trying to focus her blurry and swaying gaze, and she could scarcely hear him yowling, "Shadowpaw! Duskstar, we need help! Its Shadowpaw!"

Shadowpaw felt determination spark through her, and she forced her eyes into focus, fighting the dark wave of unconsciousness. Duskstar was at her other side and she heard him order, "Foxpaw help me take her to camp, Swanpaw race ahead and tell Ivyleaf." The white she-cats eyes sparked with fear for her friend and dashed off, Shadowpaw felt the two toms gently help her to her feet, and she let them lead her to camp, leaning on both of them to keep weight off her paws as blood soaked her chest fur, dripping onto the grass.

Shadowpaw was unable to calculate the time it took for them to get

her to camp, she saw worried faces all around her, and heard Foxpaw whisper, "Its okay Shadowpaw, your going to be fine, I promise, I won't let you die."

Before she knew it Shadowpaw was lying in a nest, Ivyleaf pressing cobwebs after cobwebs to her wound, ordering Foxpaw to chew herbs for her to use.

The whole time was a blur, and she was dimly aware of the medicine cat prompting her to eat a few poppy seeds, "They'll help you sleep Shadowpaw, you need rest." Shadowpaw obeyed, letting sleep wash over her.

(There's the ShadowClan vs ThunderClan battle for you guys! And it shows Shadowpaw's loyalty to her fellow Dark Forest cats, not fighting them on the battle! Hope you enjoyed, tell me your comments, liked, dislikes, lemme know it all XD baii <3 Jade)

Chapter 19

Shadowpaw knew Shadeheart was unhappy as she sat, calmly watching the large tom pace around, lashing his tail. "Uhhg why would you risk your life to save your pitiful weak leader!" He hissed.

Shadowpaw stood, touching her tail tip to her mentors shoulder, "I know you are worried that I will be careless, yes I could have died saving my leader, but I didn't, and I have his trust more then ever now."

The tom twitched his whiskers and sighed, "You can always see right through me, just try not to get yourself killed, we need you." Shadowpaw smiled, licking her mentors ear, "Thank you for caring, but I'm fine, and now I'll have cool scars eh?"

Shadeheart laughed, shaking his head, "All about the scars, young cats these days." Shadowpaw stretched, "So what are we doing tonight?"

"Tonight," Shadeheart echoed, "your going to rest, and I am going to take the night off as well." Shadowpaw sighed with a grin, "Fine, see you later Shadeheart."

The shadowed forest faded away, and Shadowpaw found herself sleeping, once more plunging into darkness.

Bright sunshine awakened the black she-cat, who blinked sleep from her yellow eyes with a yawn. "Your awake!" An excited meow surprised her, and she turned her head to see Foxpaw grinning at her.

Shadowpaw smiled, "Mhm, hope I didn't miss much." Foxpaw shrugged, "Its been a slow day, but Duskstar said he was going to announce me and Swanpaw as warriors!" Shadowpaw purred, remembering that Mintpaw was younger then them, but a moon older then she, "Congratulations!"

Shadowpaw was proud of her friend, but not excited to be denmates with Mintpaw, at least her brother would be there.

Shadowpaw winced as she pulled herself up onto her paws, Foxpaw darted over to help her stand. Shadowpaw perked her ears as she heard Duskstar's deep meow echo through the clearing, "Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather here beneath the Highledge for a clan meeting!"

Shadowpaw exchanged an excited glance with her friend, and he helped her pad outside the medicine clearing to sit and watch. Bumblepaw bounded over to take Foxpaw's place next to her as the older apprentice went to sit next to his mentor.

"I cant believe I missed all the excitement!" He exclaimed, and Shadowpaw grinned, "You'll get your chance, don't worry."

"Foxpaw, Swanpaw, you have both trained hard to learn our ways." Duskstar's meow quieted the murmuring cats in the clearing. The two apprentices sat tall and proud as their leader addressed them.

"Swanpaw please step forward." The white she-cat stood and stepped up. "Do you, Swanpaw, promise to uphold the warrior code, and fight for your clan, even at the cost of your life?" Duskstar asked.

The white apprentice had no hesitation in her gaze as she nodded and meowed, "I do." Duskstar dipped his head, "Then I, Duskstar, leader of ThunderClan call upon my warrior ancestors to look down upon this young she-cat. She has trained hard to learn the ways of your noble code, and shall be granted a warrior in return."

Shadowpaw felt pride for her friend as Duskstar continued, "Swanpaw from this moment on you shall be known as Swanfeather, StarClan honors your loyalty and Grace and we welcome you as a full warrior of ThunderClan." Swanfeather licked her leaders shoulder as he rested his muzzle on her head. "Swanfeather! Swanfeather!" The clan called as she joined the warriors, Bumblepaw yowled loudest, calling his friends name to the sky.

Duskstar turned to look to the russet tom, "Foxpaw, please step forward." Shadowpaw's friend stepped forward, his pelt rippling with excitement.

"Do you, Foxpaw, promise to uphold the warrior code, and fight for your clan, even at the cost of your life?" Duskstar asked him.

Foxpaw nodded and said without hesitation, "I do." Duskstar nodded, "Then I, Duskstar, leader of ThunderClan call upon my warrior ancestors to look down upon this young tom. He has trained hard to learn the ways of your noble code, and shall be granted a warrior in return."

Duskstar paused before he continued, sun glinting off the leaders pelt, "Foxpaw from this moment on you shall be known as Foxflame, StarClan honors your enthusiasm and bravery and we welcome you as a full warrior of ThunderClan."

Foxflame licked his leaders shoulder respectfully as Duskstar touched his muzzle to the new warriors head. "Foxflame! Foxflame!" The clan cheered, and Shadowpaw yowled as loud as she could for her friend. Duskstar flicked his tail, "Clan dismissed!"

Foxflame bounded over to Shadowpaw, and she purred, touching her nose to his ear, "Congratulations!" Foxflame smiled, "Soon you'll be joining me, but for now your stuck with Bumblepaw and Mintpaw."

Foxflame cast a glance toward Mintpaw, who was spitting venom through her gaze toward Shadowpaw, "I wonder what's with Venomgaze over there." He joked. Shadowpaw laughed, slapping her tail over his muzzle, "Shhhh she'll hear you!"

Foxflame leaned in close to Shadowpaw and whispered, "I think she has a hairball stuck somewhere." Shadowpaw giggled and meowed, "So, what now o' mighty warrior?" Foxflame straightened up and meowed, imitating a really deep voice, "First I'll go order Mintpaw to cough up that fur-ball, then I'll make her pick the tiny specks of dust from my fur as Bumblepaw holds a giant leaf over my head so the sun doesn't damage my delicate fur."

Shadowpaw laughed with Foxflame, and looked at him, the breeze gently stirring her black fur, "What about me?"

Foxflame tilted his head, "You..." He paused for a second, then smiled, "You'll be right here next to me as the others follow my orders." Shadowpaw purred, the mixed emotions swirling around in her heart.

Foxflame stood, sun glinting off his pelt, which rippled with hard muscle beneath. "But you, need rest." Shadowpaw sighed, but let the slim, narrow-faced russet warrior help her pad back into the medicine den so she could lay down in a soft moss nest.

Shadowpaw felt a flicker of surprise spark through her as Foxflame lay down, pressing his pelt to hers to block out the chilling breeze that promised leaf-fall was soon coming.

Foxflame began grooming her ears and pelt, his rhythmic strokes relaxing Shadowpaw. She purred a little and closed her eyes, letting herself relax against the warriors pelt, feeling sleep gently wash over her once more.

(Aww I really like this chapter XP I think it was rather sweet, so lemme know any comments, likes, dislikes anything! I'll try to post the next chapter sooner, love ya guys! <3 Jade)

Chapter 20

Shadowpaw blinked open her eyes, pale moonlight seeped into the medicine clearing, and she heard the steady breathing of Ivyleaf from behind her.

Foxflame's scent lingered semi-stale, he must have left for his watch not to long ago. For the first time Shadowpaw felt a prickle of doubt deep in the pit of her stomach.

Thinking of Foxflame... Do I? Could I? Is this feeling that I get when I'm with him... Is it love? No, no it cant be, I-I'm the death bringer I cant love him... But I do. This isn't right, I am a cat of no stars, no, I'm ***the*** *cat of no stars, I'm the leader of the dark forest!*

Shadowpaw hissed frustratedly, sinking her claws into the moss. *I am a cat of the shadows, he belongs in the light of stars. How can a dark cat love a cat who belongs in the light, Foxflame is a good soul, even I can see that he is one of true heart.*

Shadowpaw closed her eyes with a sigh, forcing her troubled thoughts to the back of her head as she curled up again, waiting for sleep to wash over her again.

~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~•~•

<Foxflame>

Foxflame kept his gaze firmly on the trees, aware of Swanpaw sitting on the opposite side of the entrance. His ears were perked, his whole body alert to catch any tiny sounds or scents.

Foxflame seeped his gaze through the trees, then dipped his head to Swanfeather to tell her he was going to do a roundabout the camp. She returned the gesture, and Foxflame stood, padding slowly and silently along the bramble camp wall, his ears perked for the sound of any intruders.

Foxflame caught a glimpse of Shadowpaw through the thorn wall as he passed by, the lithe black she-cat lay curled up, her whiskers twitching probably from a dream.

Foxflame continued walking, but his thoughts were distracted with the younger cat. The look in her shining yellow eyes, like stars in the sky, as he had talked with her.

Shadowpaw's sweet scent still clung to his fur, and he closed his eyes for a second, lost in memory. Foxflame pricked his ears at a sound, and stood stiffly, scenting the air and watching intently before he continued, soon settling back down at the camps entrance next to Swanfeather.

Foxflame shook his head, how come whenever I close my eyes I see her? Why do I always think of her when I'm hunting alone, she's just a friend... Right? Or is she more then that... Is this feeling I get when I'm with her, this warm feeling, could it be love?

Foxflame shook his head to clear it, come on Foxflame focus, focus on guarding. He resumed his alertness, shivering slightly against the cool wind, which promised that leaf-fall was near. Foxflame and Swanfeather sat side-by-side, taking turns circling around the camp as the other stays guarding the entrance, the new warriors felt awake with energy and excitement, even though the cold air nipped at the tips of their ears.

Foxflame felt warm despite the cold, excitement as well as his burning love for the young she-cat, right then, he was sure he could wait for her forever if he had to.

(Another chapter done! Sorry this took so long, I was busy with lots of things here and there, but even though there was a... Slight throwback, I'm getting better now, hope you guys liked the chapter, and I am going to be switching between Foxflame and Shadowpaw from time to time just to let you guys know, throwing in another cats opinion on matters you know, love ya guys baiii! <3 Jade)

Chapter 21

Shadowpaw stretched with a sigh, weak morning sun filtering in through the leaves. Shadowpaw tried to decide whether it was good or bad she didn't dream in the Dark Forest that night.

After minutes of self argument, she decided to leave the matter at a fifty-fifty ratio, fifty percent good that she didn't go, and fifty percent bad.

Shadowpaw hauled herself to her paws, examining the healing scar that slashed along her shoulder and chest. Shadowpaw shrugged and stepped out into the lively clearing, her wound feeling much better. "Hey, Shadowpaw!" A meow sounded from across the clearing, and Foxflame came bounding over, accidentally knocking over Yewtail, and the senior warrior spat crossly at the young cat, and Foxflame looked as if he was apologizing, his eyes wide as he padded back over to Shadowpaw, who was laughing at the tom.

Foxflame laughed, "He scared my pelt off!" Shadowpaw purred and meowed, "Your pelt looks fine to me." The russet tom rolled his eyes, batting her ears playfully.

The deep meow of Duskstar made Shadowpaw turn as he approached, "Hello you two, I see you have been getting along well recently." Shadowpaw felt her ears burn with embarrassment as her mentor's whiskers twitched with amusement, mischief sparking in the leaders gaze.

"Why don't you two go hunting, and try not to bring a nest of badgers down on you two this time." He joked, dismissing the two with a flick of his tail, "I also want you two at the gathering tonight, so don't tire yourselves out to much."

The leader padded off to chat with Crowclaw, their heads low as they whispered to eachother, casting mischievous glances toward the two young cats.

Foxflame grinned sheepishly, "Well, that was awkward." Shadowpaw laughed and nudged him, "Lets get going, then, we have prey to catch."

The two cats headed out of camp, Shadowpaw thrilled at being out of the medicine clearing. "Where should we hunt, O' mighty warrior?" She asked, her eyes glinting with amusement. Foxflame dismissed her teasing tone with a flick of his ears, "Lets hunt down by the stream, Bumblepaw said that there was a nest of voles there last time he went."

Shadowpaw nodded, and the two cats set a quick pace through the forest, weaving through trees, leaping over rocks, and slipping past bushes and ferns.

The trees were looking more bare of leaves then before, the weak sun peaking through the branches. Shadowpaw paused as she heard the stream ahead, she and Foxflame scenting the air for prey. Foxflame crouched tensely, and Shadowpaw followed his gaze to see a thin rabbit nibbling on the leaf of a clover. Shadowpaw slunk slowly and silently toward the left, and Foxflame crept to the right as the two cats prepared to corner the rabbit.

Foxflame crouched, and with the flick of his ear, he sprang into the air. The rabbit let out a squeak and immediately darted the other way, and Shadowpaw leaped into action, darting forward lightning fast, sending leaves scattering in her wake.

Shadowpaw felt her claws meet their mark, and she pinned the rabbit, clamping her teeth on its spine with a snap. "Great catch!" Foxflame exclaimed as Shadowpaw scraped earth over the dead rabbit, hiding it from other predators. The two cats continued hunting for most of the day, collecting a large haul of prey, Foxflame brought down two mice and a water vole, and Shadowpaw caught a sparrow and a squirrel.

The two cats carried their haul back into camp, Shadowpaw's neck aching from the weight. Yewtail, who was standing guard, meowed in surprise, "Looks like you two carried in a nice haul! Crowclaw will be pleased." Shadowpaw beamed at the older cats praise, relieved to set her prey down on the fresh-kill pile.

Foxflame stretched, "I promised Mintpaw I would help her clean the elders bedding, so I have work to do." Shadowpaw grinned, "Good luck, she's more prickly then the elders." Foxflame licked her ear with a *mrrow* of amusement, padding off to help the apprentice. Shadowpaw stretched and decided to do a quick solo-patrol, padding back out of camp to head for the border by the twolegplace, *haven't been that way in a while.*

Shadowpaw scented the air, the strange smells of the twolegplace growing sronger. Shadowpaw froze stiff as she scented a unfamiliar cat-scent, crouching she slid forward, narrowing her eyes. Up ahead Shadowpaw spotted a silvery gray she-cat, she was in a hunting crouch, creeping forward on a mouse, but hesitated a moment to long, and the mouse scuttled away. The cat muttered a cross curse, and her soft, clean fur told Shadowpaw that she was not a wild cat.

Shadowpaw felt the fur on her spine bristle, and she yowled, leaping out of her cover. The she-cat screeched in surprise and pelted away, fear-scent mingling with the other scents. Shadowpaw hissed and gave chase, plunging after the she-cat. The silver kittypet yowled in fear, heading straight for the fences ahead, *great StarClan this kittypet is fast!* Shadowpaw admitted inwardly, lengthening her stride as adrenaline pumped through her.

The silver she-cat leaped, clawing her way to the top of the fence, her fur puffed out as she turned to look at her attacker. Shadowpaw skidded to a stop at the bottom of the fence, spitting angrily, looking up at the she-cat with narrowed yellow eyes. The kittypet tilted her head, licking her chest as if embarrassed, "I didn't expect you to be so small." Shadowpaw scowled at the her soft, innocent tone.

"Well, why were you on our territory anyway?" Shadowpaw retorted, "I may be small but I can still shred a trespasser." The kittypet's wide blue eyes filled with curiosity and she asked, "Our? There are more of you?" Shadowpaw decided this cat wasn't a threat, and flattened her fur, sitting and curling her tail over her paws. "I am Shadowpaw, an apprentice warrior of ThunderClan."

The silver she-cat's eyes widened even more, filled with wonder and curiosity, "So there really are wildcats! And I'm talking to one!"

Shadowpaw shrugged, "I'm not a full warrior yet, you're lucky I wasn't with a patrol of warriors." The kittypet leaped down from the fence semi-cautiously, keeping space between her and Shadowpaw.

"Oh, my name is Belle, its nice to meet you Shadowpaw." The older she-cat dipped her head, and Shadowpaw returned the gesture. "As for your question, I have heard of you wild cats, ever since I was a kit I used to want to be wild and fierce like them."

Shadowpaw tilted her head, licking her twisted paw, "We are more then just fierce killers, we live by the warrior code, it tells us that we do not need to kill to win a fight, we fight for honor and take care of eachother, we aren't the only Clan in the forest after all, there's ShadowClan, and WindClan, and also RiverClan." Belle's eyes were full of wonder, and she frowned at Shadowpaw's twisted leg, "What happened there, if you don't mind my asking?"

Shadowpaw blinked, "I snuck out of camp and got myself into trouble when I was a kit, its no trouble now." Belle shuffled her paws, "I've always wanted to be like you, free, wild, and what you told me about Clans, it just sounds so wonderful."

Shadowpaw knew she shouldn't be talking to this cat, but she liked the older, curious she-cat. "Why don't you leave the twolegplace then?" Belle looked at the ground, "I would, but my mate, Darin, I couldn't just leave him." Shadowpaw nodded, "You should keep practicing stalking, if you hadn't hesitated so long you would've caught that mouse." Belle smiled, shuffling her paws as if embarrassed. "You should also try tucking your hind paws in before you leap, you'll move faster then." Shadowpaw advised.

Belle nodded, "You had a good teacher?" she asked, and the black she-cat nodded in reply. Shadowpaw tensed as another scent hit the roof of her mouth, right as a large dark brown tom leaped on top of the fence, and down between her and Belle. The tom snarled at Shadowpaw, pinning his ears, a large scar was on his muscular shoulder as he glared at her with amber eyes.

Shadowpaw bared her teeth, hissing at the newcomer, but Belle darted forward and knocked the tom back, "Darin, its fine Shadowpaw isn't doing any harm." The she-cats stern tone surprised

Shadowpaw, and Darin looked at Belle for a moment before sitting tensely, forcing his fur flat.

Shadowpaw narrowed her eyes, "Your a kittypet?" She asked, suspicious of the muscular tom. Darin scowled, then sighed, "Your a Clan cat, right?" Shadowpaw nodded, opening her jaws to speak, but he interrupted, "I thought I recognized ThunderClan scent."

Shadowpaw was surprised, and opened her jaws to gather more of his scent, although he had the strong scent of a kittypet, she found the faintest hint of ShadowClan. "You were a ShadowClan cat?" Darin flinched as if she had struck him, and for a moment anger flashed in his gaze, then defeat, while Belle's eyes opened wider then ever. "Yes, I was once Bramblefang of ShadowClan, but when I was given this scar at a fight with rogues, twolegs came out of nowhere, they picked me up and took me away, I planned to return when I could walk, but I met Belle, and I couldn't bring myself to leave her."

Belle looked at her mate in surprise, and Shadowpaw stood, realizing what time it was as the sun began to set, "I have to go, I'm going to the gathering and I must return to camp." Belle flicked her tail, "Good-bye, but maybe visit, if you get the chance."

Shadowpaw knew it was wrong, but she still liked these two cats, "If I get the chance I will, and Bramblefang, you should teach your mate some Clan cat moves, she would really love that." The toms gaze widened as she called him by his old Clan name, but as Shadowpaw darted off she called back, "And no, I won't call you by your kittypet name!" Shadowpaw was glad to be back in the forest as she headed away from the twolegplace, she knew she shouldn't have been so soft on those cats, she could hear Shadeheart's lecture already, but there was something she liked about that eager she-cat, and muscular tom. She dismissed the thoughts of them to the back of her mind as she returned to camp, Duskstar stood from where he was talking with the senior warriors, and padded over, "I hope you didn't tire yourself out, I still want you and Foxflame at tonights gathering."

Shadowpaw grinned, "Don't worry I have plenty of energy for the gathering." Duskstar purred, flicking her ears with his tail before

padding back over to the senior warriors. "Hey Shadowpaw, come join us!" Swanfeather called from where she ate with Foxflame, Honeyflower, and Sootcloud. Shadowpaw grabbed a mouse and padded over to the warriors, settling down between Swanfeather and Foxflame.

"You would not believe how many rats there were!" Sootcloud was going on about a battle with rats he had fought about a season ago. Shadowpaw listened intently along with the others, a chilling breeze making her shiver, Foxflame shuffled closer to her, pressing his pelt to hers. Shadowpaw felt her ears grow hot in embarrassment as Swanfeather sent a mischievous glance at them, but neither of them made any move away from eachother.

Duskstar's meow echoed across the clearing, "It is time to head out for the gathering!" Shadowpaw stood and stretched, following Foxflame to the mass of cats gathering around the leader. Duskstar glanced over his cats to make sure they had everyone, then flicked his tail and they set off at a fast pace. Shadowpaw extended her stride to keep in pace with her mentor as they hared through the trees, swerving around trees and ferns.

Finally Duskstar skidded to a stop at the top of the rise, from the looks of it RiverClan and ShadowClan were already there, and Duskstar flicked his tail to send his cats into the clearing. Shadowpaw wrinkled her nose at the mixed clan scents, slowing to pad beside Foxflame. They spotted the usual group of cats that they sit with and padded over, meowing greetings.

Out of the corner of her eyes Shadowpaw recognized a group of cats that trained in the Dark Forest, Rotpaw was sitting with them, as was Nightwolf, Bluelight, and Pebblepaw. Shadowpaw slunk away from the cats and joined Sootcloud as they padded over to them. The other cats dipped their heads to her as she joined them, and she returned the gesture with a flick of her ears.

"Hey Shadowpaw!" Meowed the large tabby tom, "Hi Rotpaw." She greeted him, and he puffed out his chest, "Actually, its Rotfrost now." Shadowpaw smiled flicking the toms muzzle with her tail, "Congratulations." Shadowpaw ducked in with the other cats, settling next to Rotpaw as they chatted, exchanging stories. Yowls

alerted the other clans of WindClan's arrival as even more cats poured into the clearing.

Kestrelpawl, followed by Rushwish padded over to join in the conversation with the other cats who trained in the Dark Forest. A chilled breeze swept through the clearing and Shadowpaw shivered, pressing against Rotfrost instinctively, then shifting away, "Sorry." She looked at Rotfrost, who just flashed her that charming grin of his, "Here, I want to show you something."

Shadowpaw followed Rotfrost away from the other cats, and the two slunk low to the ground, Rotpaw slipped through dense bushes, and when Shadowpaw poked her head through, they were in a small area, not in any clan territory. A small clearing was well-hidden, and a sparkling pond was in the middle, stars reflected off the gleaming water. Shadowpaw gasped at the beauty of the small secret clearing, and Rotfrost smiled, sitting at the edge of the pond. Shadowpaw sat next to him, and he pressed against her, she knew she should pull away, but she could not bring herself to.

Shadowpaw looked over at the tom, and he looked at her, his stormy gray eyes full of an emotion she just couldn't name... or didn't want to. Rotfrost's eyes filled with concern as he saw the scar on her chest and shoulder, "Is that what Batstar did?" Shadowpaw looked at her paws and nodded, then felt a jolt of surprise as Rotfrost gently groomed her ears, a deep purr rumbling in his throat. Shadowpaw felt guilt wash over her, she felt something for Rotfrost, but she felt more for Foxflame. Shadowpaw pulled away and breathed, "I'm sorry, I-I just can't." Then she padded away, back to the gathering.

(Foxflame)

Foxflame laughed as Bumblepaw told his funny stories, casting a suspicious glance toward the group of cats that sat, hunched over and muttering with eachother, Shadowpaw padded over from the cover of brambles to join them. Foxflame shrugged off the thought of the other cats, and continued chatting with the other warriors. A yowl split though the air, and the talking lowered to a hushed silence, and Shellstar nodded to Batstar to begin.

The ShadowClan leader stood and meowed, "Prey is running well so far in Leaf-Fall, and we have regained our strength to ward off any kind of trespassers." Foxflame growled, fur raising along his spine, and Sootcloud stood and called out, "It was your clan who attacked us!" Foxflame along with other ThunderClan warriors yowled in agreement, and Batstar bristled with a snarl.

Clouds flickered over the moon, silencing the angry cats below, and Batstar continued tensely, "We have a new warrior, Rotfrost." The large tom stood and puffed out his chest, although his eyes looked troubled with other things. The clans called out his name, and Batstar stepped back, Duskstar stepping forward. "ThunderClan is also getting plenty of prey, we have been able to defend our territory from many kinds of trespassers, and we as well have a new warrior, Foxpaw has become Foxflame."

Foxflame stood tall, feeling embarrassed as the clans called out his name, ignoring that some of the ShadowClan cats bristled as Duskstar spoke. The ThunderClan leader motioned for the RiverClan leader to go forward, and Shellstar meowed, "The rivers are still full of fish, although we have one of our senior warriors, Lichenpond, is retiring to the elders den." The clans called out for the old she-cat, and Bumblepaw leaned over to whisper to Swanfeather, "Is it just me or does she look older then the Great Birch?" Swanfeather giggled, and Sheepstar stood to address the clans.

"Prey is running well so far, and a patrol of our warriors were successful in chasing off a few dogs today." Kestrelpaw smirked and unsheathed his claws, slashing at the air, "Those dogs didn't stand a chance!" Cats around the clearing's whiskers twitched with amusement, the before hostilities seemingly forgotten.

Duskstar leaped down from the rock, gathering his cats with a yowl. Shadowpaw padded over to him, and he smiled and meowed a greeting, then followed Duskstar back to the camp. Foxflame yawned and padded over to the warriors den, but looking over he saw Shadowpaw curled in her nest, Mintpaw in the nest farthest away from her, of course, and Bumblepaw a few nests away. Shadowpaw shivered against the wind, cold without the other nests filled, so he stood and padded over. Foxflame hesitated for a

moment, then settled down, curling himself around the small she-cat.

Shadowpaw purred softly, pressing against him as he drank in her sweet scent, closing his eyes and letting sleep wash over him.

(FINALLY that only took an eternity! Lots of work at, well, work, but here it is, sorry it took forever, <3 Jade)

Chapter 22

Shadowpaw stretched with a yawn and blinked open her eyes, Foxflame's scent lingered in the nest beside her and she smiled inwardly. She turned and jabbed Bumblepaw with a paw, "Come on, get up!" The yellow and black tabby groaned and sat up, a clump of moss clinging to his shoulder. Shadowpaw laughed and flicked the moss off with her tail, then said, "Its your turn to wake up Mintpaw." Bumblepaw's eyes went wide, and Shadowpaw snickered as he creeped up to the sleeping apprentice, and prodded her in the side, retreating back quickly. Mintpaw shifted but didn't wake, so he creeped back up, prodding her with both his front paws, and the short tempered apprentice leaped to her paws with a startled hiss, Bumblepaw catapulting backwards in surprise.

Shadowpaw laughed and Bumblepaw leaped back up, laughing as well. Mintpaw growled and leaped onto Bumblepaw, "You little!" Bumblepaw rolled around with the other apprentice, boxing and pummeling each other with sheathed claws. Shadowpaw laughed, "Every cat for himself!" She leaped onto the two other cats, knocking Mintpaw back with sheathed paws, then flinging herself onto her brother.

The three apprentices rolled and tumbled around the apprentice part of the clearing, even Mintpaw was laughing. "Okay you three, break it up." Crowclaw meowed, startling the apprentices, Shadowpaw flashed him a guilty look, but the good humored deputy's whiskers were twitching in amusement. "Duskstar wants to speak with you three, I would not keep him waiting."

Shadowpaw exchanged bewildered glances with the others, then they padded across the grassy clearing to where Duskstar sat speaking with Wrentooth, Mintpaw's mentor. The leader looked up as they approached, "There you three are, I believe that it is time for a very important part of your apprenticeship." Shadowpaw tilted her head, and her mentor continued, "It is time for you to make the journey to the Moontree, Wrentooth and I will accompany you

there." Bumblepaw perked up in excitement, and Mintpaw looked interested in the thought, but Shadowpaw felt a small flicker of doubt.

"Ivyleaf has your traveling herbs ready, we will leave as soon as possible." Wrentooth's meow snapped her out of her thoughts, and the three apprentices nodded, rushing for the medicine clearing. Shadowpaw pushed her doubt to the back of her mind as they entered the clearing, Ivyleaf was poking around the herb storage, and she called out, flicking her tail toward piles of leaves, "Your traveling herbs are over there."

Mintpaw shrugged and bent down, wrinkling her nose as she swallowed the strong scented leaves, Bumblepaw reluctantly did the same, and Shadowpaw did as well, almost gagging at the bitter taste. "Yuck!" Bumblepaw spat when they finished, but before any of them could say anything else, Wrentooth poked his head into the medicine clearing, "Come on, lets get going."

Shadowpaw led the way out of the clearing, trotting over to Duskstar, who nodded when he saw that everyone was there, "We have lots of ground to cover, lets go." With that he led the way out of camp, and toward RiverClan territory, where they would follow the border until they cross out of clan land.

(Foxflame)

By the time he returned with his patrol he received the news of the apprentices journey to the Moontree, remembering back to his own exciting journey there. Crowclaw paced around the clearing, his tail flicking, visibly upset about something. Foxflame trotted over to the deputy, "Something wrong?" he asked, and Crowclaw frowned, motioning him forward with a flick of his tail.

"RiverClan is acting suspicious, they were spotted training in the dense forest on their territory by one of our patrols, normally it wouldn't be a big deal, except the fact that they have never trained in those trees before, and I highly doubt we are just now seeing them train there for the first time." Crowclaw meowed, and Foxflame felt the fur on his spine raise.

"We will keep a close watch on RiverClan, just in case, as for you take Sootcloud, Morningleaf, and Lionflame on a border patrol along ShadowClan territory." The deputy dismissed him with a flick of his tail, and Foxflame dipped his head, going to collect his patrol.

(Shadowpaw)

Shadowpaw's belly growled and her paws were beginning to ache as the five cats pressed on, the sun almost gone from the sky. Duskstar stopped abruptly, Shadowpaw bumping into him with a yelp of surprise, "We must hurry if we are to make it in time." Shadowpaw looked wearily at a gap in the hard stone, leading down in to pitch blackness, Duskstar led the way, Mintpaw, then Bumblepaw plunging after him with excited whines.

Shadowpaw let out a determined sigh and dove into the hole after them, darkness enveloping her from all around. The sound of Wrentooth padding behind her, along with the others' fresh scents, reassured Shadowpaw was still on the right path. She felt the stone under her paws turn to gravel filled dirt, pointed stones digging into her paw pads, panic began to rise at her throat as she came to a fork in the path, but continued following the other cats' scents, taking the right tunnel.

Panic continued to rise in her as it began to get harder to breathe the farther down they went, Shadowpaw knew sight would be impossible, so she relied on her whiskers, ears, and nose to guide her through the pitch blackness. Shadowpaw fought down her panic, and she heard Duskstar's voice from close ahead, "Welcome, young apprentices, to the cave of the Moontree."

Shadowpaw felt the gravel turn to smooth dirt, and gasped as the tunnel opened to a enormous cave. Looking up she saw a hole in the ceiling of the cave, moonlight was beginning to filter in from the hole, and her eyes adjusted to the dim light. Mintpaw was standing between Bumblepaw and Wrentooth, and Shadowpaw padded forward next to Duskstar, finally able to see what they were staring at.

A massive oak tree grew from the dirt, its branches spreading wide, the leaves still bright green as if they were untouched by the cold.

Thick roots trailed across the ground, like giant snakes coiling through the cave in spiraling, matted designs.

Shadowpaw glanced up to see the moon shine through the gap in the roof of the cave, then a sudden flash of light caused her to clamp her eyes shut. Shadowpaw blinked her eyes to adjust to the change of light, and gasped at the beauty of the scene before her. The tree had bright glowing lines scoring down the bark, even the roots caused glowing lines through the cave. The branches of the trees glowed, and the leaves shone brilliant green light, the whole sight of the tree was simply breathtaking to all of the cats.

Duskstar stepped forward, motioning for the other cats to follow him, he approached one of the low branches, carefully plucking one leaf from the branch, swallowing and curling up. Bumblepaw was the first to eagerly bound up and do the same as the leader, Mintpaw and her mentor following close behind. Shadowpaw stepped forward to pluck a leaf from the branch, surprise filtering through her as the sweet taste bathed her tongue, it tasted as if she were eating starlight, sweet and crisp.

Shadowpaw curled up, sleep coming quickly, like a torrent of water. Shadowpaw blinked open her eyes to be in a starlit forest, at first she thought she was alone in the grassy peaceful clearing, until she turned around. A long furred silver tabby she-cat stood before her, with sparkling blue eyes, "My name is Rainfrost, I was once a warrior of ThunderClan."

Shadowpaw blinked slowly, but before she could speak the she-cat faded. Shadowpaw yelped as she was plunged into darkness, and a thick, sticky liquid began lapping up her paws, already reaching up to her belly fur. A rank copper stench hit her nose and she recoiled, recognizing the scent of blood, the torrent of liquid surged upward and she gasped as it sent her tumbling under the wave, churning her paws to find the surface.

Her lungs screamed for air and she broke the surface gasping in air as terror and panic coursed through her. Shadowpaw heard the she-cats voice echo through the air, "Only one cat can stop the death-bringer." Shadowpaw spat out blood, and suddenly she found herself on top of the Gathering Rock, angry shrieks split the air and

she looked down, cats fought in a furious tangle of blood and fur.

Shadowpaw's heart raced as the cats fought eachother, no cat stepped down, both sides were fighting for their lives. Fear pierced through her like icy thorns, the cats below her continued fighting, screeches cut off and unmoving bodies slumped on the ground. "Stop! Stop fighting!" Shadowpaw yowled, but none of the cats seemed to hear her desperate yowls.

Shadowpaw clenched her eyes shut, unable to watch the fierce battle any more, and suddenly everything went silent. Shadowpaw opened her eyes, looking down from the gathering rock to see what happened to the fighting cats. The black she-cat gasped in horror at the sight, even from as high up as she was she could see a giant pile of bodies. Shadowpaw recognized Lionflame, Morningleaf, Honeyflower, even Duskstar was among the cats, as well as cats from all the clans.

Shadowpaw scrambled back in horror, and the voice boomed again, thrumming in her ears, "Only one cat can stop you... Only one cat can end this battle, the battle in which the Dark Forest takes over the forest..." Shadowpaw tried to block out the voice, but it was no use, "One cat will destroy you... One cat.... One cat." The voice faded away, and Shadowpaw felt her legs shaking.

"What if I don't want to fight for the Dark Forest! What if I don't!" Shadowpaw yowled, but there was no reply, and a horrified shriek tore from her throat as the gathering rock disappeared beneath her, and she found herself falling toward the ground at almost breakneck speed.

Shadowpaw gasped awake with a horrified shriek, her fur puffed out with terror. "Shadowpaw!" Paws shook her shoulder and she leaped to her paws, her heart racing in her chest. The other cats were staring at her with wide eyes, and Duskstar looked concerned for his apprentice. "I-I'm okay." Shadowpaw meowed shakily, thankful that no cat questioned her even though the look in their eyes told her they knew she wasn't okay.

"We must go now, we have to hurry." Duskstar meowed urgently, and Wrentooth exchanged a puzzled look with his apprentice,

"What's the matter Duskstar?" The warrior asked. Duskstar's gaze sparked, "StarClan warned me, RiverClan is going to attack our camp and defeat us there to take back the land by the river."

(Who do you guys think the cat from her dream is?? <- The one that will stop her? Comment who you think it is! Hint- The character is already in the books- Hope you enjoyed! <3 Jade Wolff)

Chapter 23

(Foxflame)

Foxflame woke in his nest with a yawn, peering out to see the stars still shining. The russet tom frowned, perking his ears for what had woke him. Foxflame creeped out of the den, careful not to tread on any cats tail as he padded into the clearing, feeling nervous, but not knowing why. Foxflame froze as he heard a rustle of leaves, and moments later a snap of a twig, swinging his head toward the noise Foxflame narrowed his eyes.

Creeping toward the camp wall, he opened his jaws to scent the air, Foxflame's eyes flew wide as he caught scent of RiverClan, double checking to make sure sleep wasn't just messing with his head. Peering through the thick bramble Foxflame caught a small flash of fur, and heard a cat hiss quietly something he did not catch, but it was for sure that these were not ThunderClan cats.

Foxflame yowled a loud warning call, "RiverClan! RiverClan is attacking!" As soon as he spoke, cats trampled through the bramble wall, one RiverClan she-cat getting tangled in the brambles with yowls of pain. Cats surged through the barrier, terror plunging through Foxflame as the camp exploded into action, Crowclaw followed by Lionflame, Starlingcall, Ravenbreeze, and Fawndapple, their eyes wide with fury and shock.

Foxflame reeled as a RiverClan tom crashed into him, claws pricking his sides as the tom attacked. Foxflame shrieked in fury, lashing out hard with a hind leg and sending the warrior staggering back, then he leaped to his paws, lunging for the tom with unsheathed claws. Another cat crashed into his side, knocking the air from his lungs he slashed blindly at his new attacker, feeling his claws tear the delicate flesh of a cats ear, blood spraying on his muzzle.

Foxflame leaped onto the she-cat who attacked him, raking his claws down her side, then leaping over her to sweep her legs out

from under her, sending her crashing to the ground. Lionflame rolled by in a screeching tumble of fur as he boxed with another cat, and he caught a flash of Crowclaw beating back a she-cat with quick strikes. Foxflame reared up and brought his paws down hard on the she-cat, sending her screeching out of the camp.

"Get out of our camp!" Foxflame roared, chomping hard on a cats tail, slashing at its hindquarters. The tabby tom yowled in pain and whipped around, knocking Foxflame onto his side and hooking his claws into his shoulder. Pain lanced up his leg and Foxflame raked the toms underbelly fiercely with his hind claws.

Foxflame gasped in pain, but the weight was suddenly taken off of him as Swanfeather hurled into him yowling a battle cry. "Thanks!" He chocked out, turning to slash at another RiverClan cat in his way. Foxflame saw his old mentor, Swiftfoot, striking ferociously at two enemy cats, and he leaped over to help, the two warriors exchanging expert blows to their opponents.

Foxflame hooked a claw in a she-cats lip, raking her ears with his free paw as she shrieked in pain. Foxflame felt his limbs growing tired as he fought on, pain lancing up his spine as a cat leaped onto him. Foxflame let himself roll, leaping to his paws quickly and raking the cats underbelly as it scrambled to stand. The cat tore away, haring away from the fight, Foxflame panted, getting a chance to look around the clearing.

The russet tom felt his heart drop as he saw his clan wasn't winning the battle, all the ThunderClan cats were shocked and exhausted, even Crowclaw was having trouble with the fight. Foxflame yelped in surprise as weight crashed into his side, teeth clamping onto his shoulder, sending pain rocketing through him. Foxflame slashed at his opponent desperately, recognizing Stormpool from the gatherings.

Suddenly battle cries split the air and he looked up to see Duskstar hurl himself into the fight, knocking back enemy cats with fierce blows. Mintpaw's and Wrentooth plunged in after him, Bumblepaw close behind, the muscular tabby apprentice catapulting onto a RiverClan tom that had Swanfeather pinned. Foxflame's attention snapped back to his opponent as Stormpool pressed a paw to his

throat with sheathed claws, making him gasp for air.

Foxflame sucked in a deep breath as Stormpool was tackled off of him, quickly staggering to his paws to see Shadowpaw. The small black she-cat clung to the RiverClan warrior, her face twisted with a furious snarl as she shifted her weight, causing him to topple over. Foxflame expected her to leap away, but instead she used the momentum of his fall to swing him around, digging her claws into his pelt and smashing his head to the ground.

Where did she learn that! Foxflame thought as she darted behind him, pulling his tail hard, then leaping over him and bucking into his side with unsheathed claws. Stormpool yowled in frustration and pain as Shadowpaw turned on him, sinking her fangs into his shoulder and tearing out a clump of bloody fur, spitting it out with a snarl. Stormpool shrieked, his eyes full of fear as he pelted off, disappearing into the trees. Pebblepaw of RiverClan whipped around from where he was fighting Mintpaw, and Shadowpaw reared up at the other apprentice, landing on the ground in front of him with a hiss.

Foxflame braced himself to leap onto the RiverClan apprentice, but Pebblepaw pinned his ears, scrambling back away from Shadowpaw and tumbling over another RiverClan cat in his haste to get away. Foxflame didn't have time wonder about why the proud apprentice turned tail at the sight of Shadowpaw as the fight continued to rage on.

Shadowpaw turned and lunged onto the next cat, fighting like all of TigerClan, and Foxflame joined in, exchanging blows with her. Shadowpaw lunged and he would strike, the two cats taking down one opponent by the next, whirling through the fight like a tornado of tooth and claw. Foxflame was surprised at Shadowpaw's fighting, she was fierce, yet fluid and graceful at the same time as she whirled around to slash at a she-cat's eyes, then ducking to let him land a blow.

Foxflame and Shadowpaw were almost unstoppable as they ducked, leaped, slashed, and bit through the battle in almost perfect unison. A loud shriek stole Foxflame's attention as he whipped his head around to see Duskstar tussling with Shellstar, struggling to keep a

firm grip on the RiverClan leaders shoulders. Exchanging a glance with Shadowpaw, the two cats leaped to help their leader, but Shadowpaw got there first, slashing the back of Shellstar's legs.

The RiverClan leader whipped around with a snarl, but the agile apprentice slid under him, slashing his underbelly before whirling on top of him in a flash of movement. Foxflame ducked and kicked the RiverClan leader's legs out from under him, Shadowpaw and Duskstar planting their paws sternly on his shoulders.

Duskstar snarled, blood trickling down the side of his face, and clumps of fur hanging loosely from his pelt, "Get out of my camp you cowardly piece of fox-dung!" Foxflame didn't think he had ever seen his leader so infuriated. Shellstar spat, snarling defiantly at the ThunderClan cats, and Shadowpaw dug her claws deeper into his shoulder, blood seeping from the wound.

Shellstar cringed and thrashed, squirming out of their grasp, blood streaking down his pelt as his yowl split the air, "RiverClan! Retreat!" The RiverClan cats began running after their leader, ThunderClan yowling their triumph to the dawning sun. Ivyleaf began twining through the wounded cats, a large bundle of herbs clamped in her jaws. Swanfeather, who was bleeding badly from a deep slash on her side, and Shrewleap, who was limping badly from a nasty bite, were in the worst condition.

Duskstar padded through the camp, gathering the most fit warriors to patrol, hunt, or help rebuild the smashed section of the camp wall. Foxflame limped over to Shadowpaw, who seemed somehow troubled by other matters, "That was impressive fighting back there, Shadowpaw." The black she-cat jumped, then licked her chest in embarrassment, "Oh, thanks Foxflame."

Foxflame tilted his head and padded over to sit next to her, concerned for what was bothering her so much, he had never seen her surprised like that. Ivyleaf came by momentarily to put marigold and cobwebs on their wounds, most of the ThunderClan cats still shocked from the attack. Crowclaw limped from cat to cat, double checking that there were no serious injuries.

Icy air swept through the clearing, driving the cats left in camp to

huddle in groups to help keep warm, but Shadowpaw stared off into the distance, deep in thought. The small black she-cat's fur rose along her spine and she staggered backward with a gasp, pinning her ears and darting out of the camp entrance, Foxflame stared after her in surprise, and a few of the other cats watched her go before continuing talking quietly in groups.

Foxflame let his golden gaze sweep over the camp, blood splattered the ground, clumps of fur littered the clearing, and a few warriors worked on the hole in the camp wall. Mintpaw was huddled with a few of the warriors, and Bumblepaw lay next to Swanfeather, keeping the slender white she-cat distracted with his stories. Worry about Shadowpaw finally drove him to follow her scent out into the forest, her scent still fresh in the forest, weak leaf-fall sunlight flittering from the trees.

He found Shadowpaw sitting in the clearing by the Great Birch, her gaze flicking from the sky to him as he padded into the clearing. "Are you okay Shadowpaw?" he asked, padding over to sit next to her. Shadowpaw let out a sigh then meowed, "Just a bad dream is all, its no big deal." Foxflame guessed from her tense tone that it was a big deal, but he didn't press any more questions onto her.

Shadowpaw looked over at him, her expression unreadable and he tilted his head with a cheesy smile, making her giggle a bit. Foxflame looked at her, and concern flashed through him at the bleeding slash on her muzzle, "That looks like it hurts." He meowed. Shadowpaw shrugged, "Its not as bad as it looks." Foxflame shifted over, pressing his pelt to her and breathing in her sweet scent.

Shadowpaw pressed her head into his shoulder with a purr, and he felt a purr rumbling in his throat as he curved his neck to gingerly lick the slash on her muzzle. "Foxflame, I..." She trailed off, but even he could read the expression in her gaze. Foxflame felt his heart beating against his chest as he breathed in her ear, "I know, I love you too." Shadowpaw nuzzled his neck and he purred, licking her ears and letting his tail twine with hers.

(OH MEH GOSH YASSSS FINALLY! Who else here loved that last part?! Comment your comments XD, hope you all enjoyed, Don't forget to read Book 2 in the 3 book series, Dusk of the Clans! Book

2- Cat and Mouse <3 Jade)

Chapter 24

All of the fears and worries that had been clouding Shadowpaw from the dream meant nothing now, because then and there it was just her and Foxflame. Shadowpaw purred, never being happier as she nuzzled into Foxflame's neck, his purr thrumming in her ears. "Lets go back to camp before they wonder where we went." He murmured, and Shadowpaw nodded, the two padding back to camp side by side, their pelts brushing.

The black she-cat and the russet tom walked into camp together, a few cats sending mischievous glances their way, but Shadowpaw couldn't care less. Duskstar had returned with his patrol, they had only managed to get a few mice and a scrawny sparrow in the cold forest. The ThunderClan leader leaped onto the Highledge, the setting sun behind him casting a shadow over the clearing. "Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey, gather here beneath the Highledge for a Clan meeting!" The dark gray leaders voice boomed through the clearing, his fiery orange eyes sweeping over the gathering cats.

Bumblepaw helped Swanfeather limp over to gather, Mintpaw, followed by Swiftfoot padded from across the clearing to join the gathering cats. "I know that we have many problems to be starting out leaf-bare," The leader began, "However ThunderClan is strong, the nursery may be empty, but there is always hope." Shadowpaw felt Foxflame shift next to her, the young warrior seemed worried for the path ahead.

"There is something that I must do, for it is well past due for this ceremony to take place." Duskstar meowed, letting his words sink in for a heartbeat before continuing. "Mintpaw, please step forward." The she-cats' mint colored gaze flew wide and she stepped forward, trembling in excitement. "Mintpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code, and protect your clan, even at the cost of your life?"

The apprentices voice shook, but there wasn't a trace of doubt, "I do." Duskstar nodded, "Then I, Duskstar, leader of ThunderClan call

upon our warrior ancestors to look down upon this young she-cat. She has trained hard to learn your noble ways and will be made a warrior in return. Mintpaw, from this day on you will be known as Mintbreeze, StarClan honors your courage and determination, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ThunderClan." Mintbreeze bowed her head to lick her leaders shoulder as he rested his muzzle over her head, then stepped back next to her mentor with the warriors as the clan called out, "Mintbreeze! Mintbreeze!".

"Bumblepaw, Shadowpaw, please step forward." Duskstar meowed, and surprise coursed through her as she stepped forward. "Do you, Shadowpaw and Bumblepaw promise to uphold the warrior code, and protect your clan, even at the cost of your life?" Bumblepaw's whiskers quivered with excitement, "I do."

Shadowpaw looked determinedly at her leader, no hesitation in her meow, "I do."

Duskstar's eyes glittered with pride, "Then I, Duskstar, leader of ThunderClan call upon our warrior ancestors to look down upon these two apprentices. They have trained hard to learn your noble ways and will be made a warriors in return. Bumblepaw, from this day on you will be known as Bumbleflash, StarClan honors your forethought and determination, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ThunderClan." Bumbleflash licked his leaders shoulder as Duskstar rested his muzzle on his head, bride swelling in Shadowpaw for her happy-go-lucky brother.

"Shadowpaw, from this day on you shall be known as Shadowspirit, StarClan honors your fighting skills and cunningness, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ThunderClan." Shadowspirit felt pride soaring through her, bowing her head to lick her mentors shoulder as he rested his muzzle between her ears. "Shadowspirit! Bumbleflash! Shadowspirit! Bumbleflash!" The clan called out their names, and Shadowspirit felt as if she was light as a bird when she returned to sit next to Foxflame.

"Now, another pressing matter, we need apprentices to train as warriors, as for now the young warriors will do apprentice duties." Duskstar meowed, momentary worry flashing in his gaze. "Duskstar, I have news." A cat meowed, and the clan turned to look over at

Mousepool and her mate Shrewleap. The shy she-cat shuffled her paws and meowed, "I'm going to be having Shrewleap's kits."

The clan brightened up immediately, murmuring happy congratulations to the two warriors, and Shadowspirit thought, *Belle wanted to be a warrior, and I'm sure that she is not the only kittypet that would be willing to, I'm not fond of them myself, but we do need apprentices more than anything*. Shadowspirit stood, "Duskstar, I have an idea for the apprentice problem."

The leader dipped his head for her to speak, and she gathered up her courage, "There is a kittypet, named Belle that I met not to long ago, she shows potential, and even said she wanted to be a clan cat." Duskstar looked interested, but most of the warriors huffed and wrinkled their noses against the idea. Shadowspirit turned toward the clan cats, "My father was half kittypet, and yet no cat doubted his strength or loyalty, even the great Firestar was a kittypet, and his blood runs through the veins of many warriors here, although not every kittypet is right for clan life, I believe that we must start somewhere."

The cats of the clan nodded after her speech sank in, and even the more rebellious warriors grumbled agreements. "Then it seems we have come to an agreement, tonight our new warriors shall sit vigil, and tomorrow I will take a few cats to the twolegplace, that is all, clan dismissed." Shadowspirit touched noses with Foxflame, her vow of silence already taking action as she went to guard the camp, the three new warriors wouldn't let anything get past them, cat, or even mouse..

Shadowspirit took a deep breath, already setting up barriers against the looming darkness of her dream at the Moontrees. Tonight, I'm a warrior, I am not with the Dark Forest, I am a warrior of ThunderClan, I honor StarClan more then the Dark Forest. Shadowspirit thought stubbornly, even though deep in her heart she knew that she was only trying to run from her own fate, a path that tends to lead straight for it.

-End Of Book 1-

(YAY Thanks everyone that read this far!!!!! I will get the next

book out soon! Maybe by either today or tomorrow idk, but thanks for reading!!!!!!!!!! Don't forget to read Book 2 in the 3 book series, Dusk of the Clans! Book 2- Cat and Mouse)

***PREVIEW** Here is the description for the next book!*

Shadowspirit is now a proud warrior of ThunderClan, she has convinced herself that she is free from the dark forests grasp, but is she really? Or is she just running from the inevitable? Leaf-bare is harsher then ever, and ThunderClan needs more apprentices, not to mention severe lack of prey. Shadowspirit will do anything for her clan, but how long can she play this internal game of cat and mouse? Can Shadowspirit escape her doomed destiny, or will she bring destruction and war to the forest? How many tests can one cat endure before everything shatters? And most of all, is Shadowspirit the cat, ahead of it all and going her own way to follow StarClan and the warrior code, or is she the mouse, desperately running from an unseen and unstoppable doom?